Thursday, June 17, 2010 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 189 P10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Marcos rights victims expect 'historic closure'

By Philip C. Tubeza

NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY after the fall of the Marcos regime, 10 rights-violation victims are expecting to finally obtain a "historic closure" to their long fight for justice and compensation with the advent of a new Aquino administration.

Former Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, chair of Claimants 1081, yesterday said her group was confident that incoming President Benigno Aquino III would glide his bid and eventually sign into law the P10-billion human rights victims compensation bill.

Rosales said she expected the bill to pass despite the politicking at the start

MARCOS A 11

100 years of US Father's Day marks Dad's evolution

SPOKANE, Washington (AFP) — Father's Day was moved a century ago because of one Spokane woman, Sonora Smart Dodd, who opted for the widespread marking of fathers in popular culture of toys, shops and drinks.

That June 20 marks the 100th anniversary of Father's Day and while today's fathers have come a long way, some would say they could score more

DEVELOPMENTS A 11

WALL WITH A VIEW President Arroyo inspects the progress of the reconstruction of the Maestranza Curtain Wall with Sen. Richard Gordon in Intramuros, Manila, on Wednesday. Gordon started the reconstruction of the historic Spanish armory destroyed during the Japanese occupation while he was tourism secretary. EDDIE SOCKWAN

SPORTS / A20
Lakers beat Celtics, forge rubber match

SPORTS / A20
Kiwi thriller upstages nervy Brazilian debut

METRO / A23
Policeman arrested with 4 kilos of cocaine

WORLD / A26
Obama: British Petroleum must pay

NEWS / A3
Palace proposes June 30 nonworking holiday

NEWS / A6
Robredo ready to take DILG portfolio

Mar heads transition team

Swiss-Filipino rescued so swiftly he hardly knew it

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Jocelyn R. Uy
in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE SOLdiers came swiftly before dawn and before he knew it, Charlie Reith was free from two months in captivity and the three kidnappers guarding him had scampered away without firing a shot.

"I was very much delighted when they told me that I was in secure hands," Reith later told reporters. "I can't really say things to you very much because it was a lightning fast operation. It was dark, it was around 2:30 in the morning."

"The abductors were startled, they fled ... our troops ran after them," Rear Adm. Alexander Pama, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command, said in a phone interview with reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

"They grabbed him at the

SWISS-FILIPINO A 10

QUENCHING A THIRST "I missed a good beer," Swiss-Filipino Charlie Reith says at a press briefing in Zamboanga City Hall's conference room on Wednesday.

Noynoy tasks him to direct transfer of power

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IN A MOVE SEEN TO smain relations between President-elect Benigno Aquino III and Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay, Aquino has appointed Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II to lead a high-powered team that will oversee the turnover of power in Malacañang.

Aquino has designated Roxas, his defeated running mate, and four others in his inner circle to make up the "presidential transition coordination team," Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters yesterday.

Lawyer JV Bautista, a spokesperson for Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay during the canvassing, said President-elect Aquino was "not that warm" toward Binay during the proclamation proceedings at the House of Representatives last week.

"The cameras don't lie. President-elect Noynoy was not that warm toward Vice President-

MAR HEADS A11

FACE-OFF The Arroyo administration's transition team headed by Dona Bautista-Hora meets the team of President-elect Noynoy Aquino led by Maria Milagros Aquino (third from left) at the Premier Guest House on Wednesday.

Tonyboy gave ₱100M, leads Noy's 96 big campaign donors

By Kristine L. Alave

WEALTHY RELATIVES AND businessmen, led by Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, bankrolled the election campaign of Sen. Benigno Aquino III, who spent more than P400 million to get elected president, according to documents from the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Cojuangco, who built his business on telecommunications and media, gave the largest contribution—100 million in cash—to the Aquino campaign.

Cojuangco, former owner of TV5 and PLDT, is Aquino's second cousin and his donation accounted for a fourth of the total contributions to the Aquino campaign.

Unlike Aquino, defeated presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Villar said he received no financial help from tycoons for his campaign.

In his expense report, Villar

TONYBOY A11

Quit by June 30, 'midnight' men told

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT-ELECT BENIGNO Aquino III yesterday said all "midnight appointees" should quit their posts by June 30.

He cited Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino who wants to retire effective the same day, when President Macapagal-Arroyo's term ends.

"I'm grateful; at least it's one less problem solved. Well-intentioned Filipinos will, out of obligation (propriety), do the right thing," Aquino told reporters at his residence on Times Street in Quezon City.

He added that he would honor or revoke the midnight appointments as needed: "As I promised, everything will be subject to review. Boku-boku appointment 'no deserving, lesss

QUIT A11

Noynoy: Please, I'm not superman

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DON'T LOOK FOR A RED CAPE BEhind that yellow shirt.

After winning with the biggest electoral mandate in the country's history, expectations are naturally sky-high for President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

But the country's first bachelor President, who only decided to seek the country's highest post less than nine months before Election Day,

NOYNOY A12

AGUSTIN: Deadly profession

Another broadcaster shot dead in northern Luzon

By Cristina Arcadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—LESS THAN 24 hours after the murder of a broadcaster in Mati City in Mindanao, another radio commentator was gunned down by motorcycle-riding gunmen in northern Luzon.

Joaquin Agustin, 57, was driving his motorcycle on Tuesday night on his way home to Bacarra town at 9:30 p.m. when the gunmen shot him with a .45 cal. pistol. He had just come from his dzJC radio program, "Laoag City by day, Davon Norte by night."

Agustin was the 102nd murdered journalist under the outgoing Arroyo administration during which the Philippines became one of the world's hazardous places for journalists to work in, according to international media watchdog groups.

Police said Agustin was then riding tandem with his nephew Joseph along the national road at Barangay Bacsil here.

The victim's nephew survived, but told police that he could not identify the attackers.

The Laoag shooting was the

ANOTHER A10

Favorite targets of killers

By Alexis Papa

THE PERVASIVENESS AND popularity of the broadcast medium, while performing a service to the community, also makes broadcasters a favorite target of killings, a media critic said.

According to Luis Teodoro of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) and former dean of the

BROADCASTERS A10

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mainland Cordillera: Fair; Metro Manila: Mostly sunny with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Naga/Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Mostly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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0 9 3 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
8 12 14 18 34 45
PHP5,208,628.40

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
12 15 30 31 34 38
PHP34,632,709.20

Bangit quitting next week

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT LOOKS LIKE PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO would have to appoint an acting military chief as her reportedly favorite general, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Delfin Bangit, is reportedly opting for early retirement next week.

A military official close to Bangit yesterday disclosed that a military ceremony would be held "sometime next week" for the outgoing chief of staff and for the turnover of the post to a temporary successor while awaiting the official nomination of President-elect Benigno Aquino III.

Earlier, Aquino bluntly announced his intention to choose another officer to lead the 120,000-strong military establishment.

"He is retiring next week," said the source, who requested not to be named pending official announcement of Bangit's retirement date.

Bangit has scheduled farewell visits across the country to deliver his final message to troops.

If Bangit retires early, acting AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Nestor Ochoa will have to supervise the military during Aquino's inauguration on June 30, he added.

In an interview yesterday with reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Arnulfo Burgos said Ochoa was the next in command.

"What will happen in the current vice chief of staff will be the acting chief of staff. In this case, General Ochoa would be it," said Burgos. "But this has to be formalized by the Board of Generals," he added.

The Board of Generals is expected to convene and make the recommendation of Ochoa's temporary duties in AFP chief of staff to the commander in chief, Mr. Arroyo, Burgos explained.

Ochoa, currently chief of the Visayan Command, and Bagyong Command, was appointed last week as the AFP's second-in-command in an acting capacity following the retirement of Lt. Gen. Roilo Golez Macdang.

Ochoa is a member of the Philippine Military Class of 1977.

In his visit to troops of the 102nd Infantry Brigade at Camp Rafael M. Mascardo City yesterday, Bangit said: "My final instruction is that I want the Filipino soldier to obey, respect and support the new leadership... maintain your dignity and honor by being very professional."

Verzosa meets Noynoy, but...

By Marlon Ramos

THE HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP), Jesus Verzosa, said he met with President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III over the weekend, two weeks ahead of his inauguration on June 30.

Interviewed by reporters, Verzosa refused to disclose details of his "informal meeting" with Aquino.

"Yes, I have already spoken with the President-elect," Verzosa told reporters after greeting cops on "visit briefing" for Positions Misrepaupel Serrays in Camp Crame on Tuesday.

Verzosa said the meeting took place on Sunday in a private place "but not on Times Street," referring to Aquino's residence in a middle-class community in Quezon City.

When asked what transpired during the meeting, he said with a smile: "Nothing. We just met. Let's not talk about it. Basta sa maglilisa kami (We met, period)."

"It was an informal one because there were others in the area," Verzosa added when nagged to divulge his encounter with Aquino.

While he admitted meeting Aquino, Verzosa said they did not talk about the President-elect's announced decision to fire him may on or PNP chief.

Verzosa said the PNP would give the next president a security briefing after his inauguration on June 30.

After spurning Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Delfin Bangit, Aquino had publicly said he would likely keep Verzosa in head of the 120,000-strong police force.

"People who are doing good should be rewarded," the incoming president said in an interview with the GMA 7 Network.

As the start of the campaign, Verzosa had publicly stated that he would not back moves to install Mr. Arroyo as a holdover president in case the May 10 elections failed.

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SPEAKERSHIP FIGHT

Lagman not yet giving up

By Lolit B. Saberola

THE LAKAS-KAMPI-CMD candidate for Speaker is not going down without a fight.

Minutes after Edcel Lagman yesterday said that Lakas-Kampi would keep its duty to try to grab the plum post in the House of Representatives because of its numerous winning candidates.

Lagman said that with its many members who will be in the 15th Congress, Lakas-Kampi remains the biggest bloc in the House.

"LKC will be in the thick of the Speakership contest in order to uphold the electoral mandate wherein more representatives were elected coming from LDC and to comply with the Constitutional prescription on check and balance between the Executive and the Legislative," Lagman said in a statement.

Earlier, the Liberal Party's secretary-general Sen. Ralph Gonzales said the LP feel the speakership all sewn up, having earlier secured the support of the Nacionalista Party and the Nacionalista Peoples Coalition.

In fact, the LP is so confident of getting the speakership for its candidate, incoming Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte, that it has begun talking about committee assignments, which are reserved points in the House.

Lagman also objected to statements that characterize lawmakers affiliating with the LP as moves made to be tagged.

"Joining the bandwagon may be a smart politician and politically opportune occurrence," he said.

He acknowledged that the presence of lawmakers flocking to the President's political party has been a hard-to-break tradition.

But he also said that having an abundance of members brings about monetary consequences.

"Excess in numbers creates the problem of adequate accommodation," he noted.

Lakas-Kampi decided to field Lagman for Speaker after President Macapagal-Arroyo, who will sit as ex-officio representative, took herself out of the race.

Should he get the post, Lagman will share his term with Quezon Rep. Belmonte.

Day 1 for Noynoy may be a holiday

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S POSSIBLE PRESIDENT-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III will start his administration on a holiday.

Malacañang is proposing to declare June 30 a special nonworking holiday to allow the nation to observe the installation of Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino as the 15th president of the country.

Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza said yesterday he has already made this recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo. He has not yet received her approval.

"I think Filipinos deserve to see the new President and hear him," Mendoza said of Aquino, in his weekly news conference.

When President Arroyo was inaugurated on June 30, 2004, the Senate had declared that day a holiday.

Meanwhile, Presidential Management Staff chief Julia Basilia Rose said the Palace and Aquino transition team met yesterday morning Quirino grandstand and the Quezon Memorial Circle, the proposed site for the inauguration celebrations.

The two executive issuances were also expected to meet yesterday afternoon this time for Aquino-Cusi to report also to the Palace-proposed where the new President would hold his inaugural oversights as well as future Cabinet meetings, according to Rose.

"We will be talking to make the final arrangements," Ilaya told reporters.

GOV'T WATCH

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

COPW IS CHANGING – IN STEP WITH THE TIMES

The country is at the threshold of change. With strong hopes that the change will be for the better.
As the country prepares and looks forward to the leadership of President Benigno Aquino III, we join the Filipino people in praying for the success of his administration.
But prayers alone will not suffice. Each and everyone must do his share.
To ensure that the new government will abide by its campaign promises.
To correct the mistakes of the past. And to do right by the Filipino people.

COPW IS EVOLVING INTO GOV'T WATCH

For the longest time, COPW has championed the cause of the Filipino consumer especially in the areas of power, fuel and the prices of prime commodities. In the pursuit of this advocacy, it has become clear that **REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND A LACK OF GOOD GOVERNANCE** have been the greatest cause of the Filipino consumers' plight.

AS GOV'T WATCH WE WILL:

1. **Advocate transparency and accountability in all government undertakings.** In this regard, we encourage President Aquino to certify as urgent the Freedom of Information Bill to the incoming Congress.
2. **Push for revenue enhancement and anti-graft and corruption measures** particularly in the BIR and the Bureau of Customs.
3. **Participate in public hearings of both the Senate and the House of Representatives** especially as it pertains to **fiscal matters and the economy.**
4. **Urge the Aquino administration to revamp, strengthen and impose sanctions on regulatory bodies** like the ERC, DOE/DOJ Task Force on Energy, TRB for under-compliance of functions.
5. **Continue our advocacy on matters that pertain to fuel, power and water.**

GOV'T WATCH, AS WITH ITS PREDECESSOR COPW, WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A POSITION OF NON-PARTISANSHIP AND OBJECTIVITY.

Together with the more than 15 million Filipinos who voted him into office, we place on President Aquino the hopes and aspirations of the Filipino people. For a better and progressive future.

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Protest to cost Mar at least P35M

By Beverly T. Mendoza

IT WAS A GENTLE VICE PRESIDENTIAL campaign that Sen. Manuel Roxas waged and lost.

Now Roxas, a scion of the wealthy Araneta clan, may have to shell out at least P35 million more if he decides to push through with plans to file an election protest against Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay.

Going by his computations, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said an electoral protest could cost Roxas P35 million, excluding lawyers' fees.

Roxas earlier said he planned on protesting the electoral results in three regions: Western Visayas (Region VI), Central Visayas (Region VII), and Caraga.

Opening the ballots in the three regions alone will cost Roxas almost P18 million, considering that the established precincts in the three areas total 10,696, Macalintal told the Inquirer.com.ph newsportal yesterday.

The Commission on Elections and the House of Representatives have fixed the cost of opening ballots at P500 for each established precinct.

"If the Supreme Court follows the same rules, Roxas faces a very expensive election case for the three regions," said Macalintal, President Marcapagal-Arroyo's former election lawyer.

The Supreme Court considers itself first the Presidential Electoral Tribunal to hear electoral contests in the presidential and vice presidential races.

On top of that, additional costs for the revision or re-tabulation of the certificates of canvass also carry a hefty price tag of about P6.7 million as revisers are paid about 1,000 per day, Macalintal said.

The retrieval of the ballot boxes and photocopying of documents may entail another P5 million.

According to Macalintal, Roxas will also have to consider the additional burden of testing the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines to authenticate the ballots.

The Rules of Court require that the PCOS machines that were actually used during the elections should authenticate the ballots before revision.

He's, Macalintal said, Roxas may need to shell out a considerable sum as the PCOS machines will be turned over again to Smartmatic-TIM following the expiration of their contract on Dec. 31.

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Solon wants sex talk in English

Robredo will take DILG post

By Nino Calleja

ROBREDO

Luisita case not on SC priority list

By Dono Z. Pazzibugan

DACER-CORBETO POSER

Judge: Double murder or 2 counts of murder?

By Tina G. Santos

SLEx toll hike OKd

By Philip S. Mamaril

We don't give unsolicited advice–Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID IT would stop giving President-elect Benigno Aquino III unsolicited advice.

"Our policy is we don't give advice unless solicited," Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza said after Palace officials were criticized by Aquino's allies in the Senate for trying to give the President-elect "boarding-school manners."

"What some of us are giving our statements pertaining to some issues...the purpose really is to ensure there is continuity of governance, and of course keeping in mind always the good of the public at large," he added.

Aquino's colleagues in the Senate were irked by Presidential Management Staff chief Elena Bautista-Horan's criticism of Aquino's decision to replace Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Delfin Bangit.

Horan had said she wanted to remind Aquino that he would be President "of the entire nation—not just your friends, relatives or supporters."

"He will also be the president of his enemies, of his critics," she also said.

Yesterday, Mine—who attended the news conference of Members—said she was thinking by her statement.

"But I no longer want to add further statements to it," Mine told reporters.

Mendoza also denied reports that the transition team's chief is outgoing and incoming congressmen or aides.

Mendoza insisted that their discussions were all good and that the Aquinos were open to suggestions and opinions" given to them.

"There's no truth to the impression that we are not getting along," he said. "We are getting along and we are helping each other."

Berlusconi congratulates Noynoy

THE FOLLOWING IS THE LETTER OF Silvio Berlusconi, president of Italy, congratulating President-elect Benigno Aquino III on his recent election:

H.E. Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Cojuangco Aquino III
President-elect of the Philippines
MANILA

Distinguished President,

I wish to express my warmest congratulations for your election to the Presidency of the Philippines.

I believe that you will be able to carry out at best the difficult duty for which your fellow citizens have elected you.

Italy and Philippines are linked by a solid bond of friendship and collaboration, which is constantly strengthened by the presence in our country of a numerous and active Filipino community.

I am certain that we will continue to work together to give further strength to this friendly relations.

Cordially Yours,
Silvio Berlusconi

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT NOYNOY AQUINO

Dear Mr. President:

Before anything else, allow us to congratulate you on your recent proclamation as the new President of our nation. You have our absolute and unqualified support in your quest to eradicate graft and corruption in our country.

The undersigned cargo handlers/operators, doing business at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBF), wish to bring to your attention the hurriedly negotiated and signed P6.54Billion Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Harbor Centre Port Terminals, Inc. (Harbour Centre). Said JVA violates the 2008 NEDA Rules, the Constitution and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

SBMA approved and signed the JVA despite the fact that Harbor Centre failed to meet the technical and financial requirement per the 2008 NEDA Rules.

The JVA violated the technical and financial requirements set by the 2008 NEDA Rules because Harbor Centre (1) has not completed a similar or related project in the past costing P3.27B (or 50% of the P6.54B total project cost); (2) will not be able to finance 50% of the funding requirement from its own equity since its recently increased paid-up capital is only P2Billion and its net income for the last 5 years was only P700M; (3) failed to deposit on the first day of publication an amount equivalent to 1.5% of the cost of the joint venture activity or P100M. These violations are factual and may be verified from the JVA itself and SBMA records.

THE JVA is also unconstitutional because (1) SBMA delegated its quasi-legislative powers to fix tariff rates; (2) it violates the constitutional prohibition on unfair competition; (3) it deprives existing cargo handlers of their property rights without due process of law.

The SBMA Charter vests in SBMA the power to fix tariff rates. SBMA has abdicated this power to Harbour Centre through a mere JVA. In fact, the JVA gave Harbor Centre absolute power to increase tariff rates up to 95% of the tariffs imposed by the Philippine Ports Authority in the ports of Manila, thereby making Harbor Centre the regulator and, at the same time, the exclusive cargo handler in the entire Freeport—a perfect example of a combination in restraint of trade or unfair competition.

Under the JVA SBMA will initially lose approximately USD340,000 for the first year, including the 35% progressive revenue increase per year during the lifetime of said JVA.

Harbour Centre's fixed revenue commitment to SBMA of USD500,000 (PhP 23 Million) for the first year would be way below, or about USD 340,000 short of, the revenues that the latter receives from its locators (or from its share in cargo handling, warehouse and storage rentals). In fact, the records of SBMA's Seaport Department will show that in 2009 alone, SBMA received a total revenue of USD 837,398.47 (or PhP 38.5Million) from the present cargo handling locators. From these figures, it is clear therefore that (1) SBMA will give away USD337,398 (or roughly P15Million) to Harbour Centre and the latter, without lifting a finger, would become the beneficiary of all the locators' efforts or hard work. The question is asked: Why should SBMA give away its business or share its profits with Harbour Centre via the JVA? (2) The increase in SBMA's revenue from 2008 to 2009 was 35%. Should the trend continue, i.e., the locators' share in the revenues would increase by 35%, SBMA, in effect, would lose the chance to earn an expected income of USD1.06 Million during the second year of the JVA-- which pales in comparison to Harbour Centre's revenue commitment of USD600,000 on the second year. Again, it is asked: Why would SBMA simply throw away USD400,000 on the second year of the JVA when SBMA would be able to collect the same amount from existing locators anyway?

The SBMA Management is poised to award and surrender the seaports (piers, wharves, warehouse/offices) to Harbor Centre. Once the turn-over is completed, about 2,000 of our employees would be displaced and our investments amounting to about P1.5Billion would go down the drain. We believe that said award should be stopped and that an immediate investigation of the present SBMA Board and its other officials should be conducted. This "midnight contract" was crafted and concluded without any effective consultation made by the Management of SBMA with its undersigned locators. Indeed, all of us were misled into believing that this JVA would not matrialize at all.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to set aside this "midnight deal" which smacks of arbitrariness and corruption. Your battle cry: "KUNG WALANG CORRUPT, WALANG MAHIRAP" inspired us to campaign and vote for you. Rest assured that in this protracted war against corruption, you will have our full support and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. President, and, once again, our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for your success! Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Rino Moraleta
President, Mega Subic Terminal Services, Inc.

Restituto Torres
President, Subic Seaport Terminal, Inc.

Marino A. Borja
General Manager, Asiarasia International Terminal Services, Inc.

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NEW SAN JOSE BUILDERS, INC

Another broadcaster shot dead in Luzon

From page A1

second attack on a member of the press in the Philippines this week.

Another outspoken radio journalist, Dominador Ga-mangyan, 52, was shot dead on Monday while hosting a singing contest in Mati, Davao Oriental.

Gamangyan was well known for speaking out against powerful groups involved in illegal logging in and around Mati.

Aguasin was the third radioman to be killed in Ilocos Norte since 2000. Roger Mantuo and Andy Acosta, who also worked as radio broadcasters, in the station dxJC, were killed in 2004 and 2006, respectively.

Death threats

Aguasin was shot four times in the chest and lower abdomen.

He was immediately taken to Ilocos Norte Medical Center Hospital but doctors pronounced him dead at around 11 a.m.

Police in Laoag and Ilocos have started compiling some.

Mantuo said a task force had been formed to investigate the murder.

Aguasin's colleagues at the radio station said they believed that the shooting had to do with his work as commentator.

Nick Mabilog, a dxJC reporter, said Aguasin had talked about threats on his life. Mabilog said he and other reporters advised Aguasin to take the threats seriously.

Politics can kill

On May 7, gunmen sealed Aguasin's house in Batutra, some 8 kilometers from Laoag City, but no one was hurt.

Supt. Sorelbig Bunten, Laoag City police chief, said the residents could be related. "If the episodes are related, we may have a clearer picture of the situation," Bunten said.

Andy Veral, news director for the station's parent outfit Manila Broadcasting Co., said that Aguasin may have been killed in relation to politics.

"Aguasin has been vocal in criticizing graft and corruption in Ilocos," Veral said.

Dionisio Lorenzo, dxJC station manager and he believed politics was behind Aguasin's murder.

"Politics can kill. Media killings are caused by the victims' involvement in politics," Lorenzo said in his editorial broadcast.

"To you, Lito, we will never forget you. You gave us joy with your daily jokes you brought along each hour consonant to the station," he said.

PNP directive

Alerted over the two murders, the Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday ordered the provincial and town police chiefs to "secure" all journalists under threat.

PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa also directed the creation of a special investigating team to help the Laoag police officers in solving the killing of Aguasin, said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina.

"Verzosa wants all unit commanders in the provincial and station levels to secure media personnel receiving death threats throughout the country," Espina told reporters in Camp Crame. With reports from Marlon Ramos and AFP

Broadcasters favorite targets of killers

From page A1

University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication, today as a medium is popular even outside urban areas.

"People always have their radios on and they are always listening. So radio broadcasters have an impact on their audience, and this could lead to the killings of local officials are displeased with the commentary," he said.

Very sensitive to criticisms

In most communities, the hard-hitting radio broadcasters also the hard-hitting columnist of the local paper, which increases the chances of incurring the ire of officials, according to Tiotuico.

Noel Alistar, dxMM reporter and president of the Philippine National Police Press Corps, said local officials "are very sensitive to criticism from local media."

Last month, Alistar was harassed by local police in his native Pola, Oriental Mindoro, when he tried to investigate reports police officers were partisan in the last elections.

"Local broadcasters are really hard-hitting. But they still perform their jobs despite the risks," he said.

Lack of training

Tiotuico said that some radio broadcasters lacked "preparation and training."

"Some of them really go all out with the media ethical standard really hurt the subject. If the subject is a local politician, it is likely he will be angered by the broadcaster," he said.

Tiotuico added that media groups were addressing the issue on training.

According to the CMFR, 42 out of the 114 journalists killed since 1986 were radio reporters.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) put the number at 137 journalists killed, with 106 under the outgoing Arroyo administration.

The Arroyo administration has been criticized heavily here and abroad for its failure to curb the killings despite a dedicated investigative unit formed by the national police force to solve the killings and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Culture of impunity

Tiotuico blamed a culture of impunity for the violence, which also targets judges, prosecutors and members.

"The conditions which make these killings possible must be removed," he said. "That means you are going to have to punish the guilty and those that the justice system works. You must show that one cannot just kill anybody and get away with it."

The international media watchdog Committee to Protect Journalists says the Philippines third, behind Iraq and Somalia, in its "Global Impunity Index" to which killers of journalists literally get away with murder.

Tiotuico said only three members of journalists had been murdered—meaning at least some of the suspects convicted and jailed—since his group began monitoring media killings in 1986.

Last year was especially bloody with 33 journalists murdered, most of them in the massacre in Maguindanao that left a total of 57 people dead in November.

"Unless this culture ends, the government will never be able to stop the killings," said NUJP vice chair Nonoy Espina.

Challenge for Aquino

Espina urged President-elect Benigno Aquino III, who will take over from Ms. Arroyo on June 30, to make addressing the high murder rate of journalists one of his top priorities.

"We don't expect this (Arroyo) administration to lift a finger, but those (latest murders) should be seen as a personal challenge by Noynoy in light of his campaign promise to look into the media killings," Espina said.

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) also called on Aquino to resolve the media killings and other human rights violations "in the soonest possible time, and to ensure the policies are implemented throughout her term that entailed the violation of freedom of expression and other human rights."

"If Aquino is truly the people's president, then he must ensure the people's freedom to expression and prosecute the murders and human rights violators, his predecessor—Ms Arroyo's," the CEGP said. With a report from AFP

FDA

Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, City of Muntinlupa 1781 Philippines

STATEMENT OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

In light of the self-operation of the herbal food supplements industry and its moves to discredit the Department of Health (DOH) and Secretary Esperanza Cabral on the issuance of DOH Administrative Order (AO) 2010-0008 mandating the translation of the Philippine National Formulary (Formulario Nacional) into Filipino, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reiterates its full and unequivocal support for the DOH and Secretary Cabral's commitment to upholding the highest standards of health in this country.

DOH Administrative Order 2010-0008 was issued mainly to inform the public that food/dietary supplements are not drugs and should not be used to treat diseases. As the State's main arm in the task of promoting and protecting the health of the people, the DOH must explore all possible means to fulfill its mandate. We are of the sincere belief that the DOH was well within the bounds of reason and authority in the issuance of the questioned Administrative Order.

The regulation of claims attributed to all health products in general is relevant with public interest as such claims can influence a person's belief regarding a particular health product. Reliance on false and misleading claims regarding a health product may have harmful consequences to a person's health. The State appreciates the importance of this kind of regulation and has passed laws, rules and regulations in order to deal with this issue. Among these are:

1. Article 11(a), (b) and (c) of Republic Act 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines which provides that:

Art. 11(a) No claim in the advertisement may be made which is not contained in the label or approved by the concerned Department.

(b) No person shall advertise any food, drug, cosmetic, device or hazardous substance in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character, value, composition, merit or safety.

(c) Where a warrant has been prescribed for a food, drug, cosmetic or device, no person shall advertise any article or substance in such a manner that it tends to lessen the high quality standard called for the article complied with the prescribed standard or regulation.

2. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX), 1-1979 (Rev. 1-1993), the provisions of which were supplemented by the Guidelines on the Use of Nutrition and Health Claims (CAC/GL 23-1997 Rev. 1-2004), which were adopted by the FDA by virtue of R.A. No. 9711, FDA Act, provides that:

3.6 Claims as to the suitability of a food for use in the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of disease, disorder or particular physiological conditions are also prohibited unless they are, by or in accordance with the provisions of Codex standards or guidelines for foods under jurisdiction of the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses and follow the principles set forth in these guidelines.

As the defender of the people's right to enjoy safe and quality food products, drugs and medicines, the FDA is in full support of the advocacy of the DOH and Secretary Cabral. There is nothing ultra vires, illegal or reprehensible with this Administrative Order and its objectives, as some quarters would like to portray it.

Even as the herbal food supplements industry was able to get a writ of preliminary injunction to stop the implementation of the Administrative Order (which the FDA respected by ordering all concerned to revert to the status quo), this Office remains ardent and actively behind the DOH and Secretary Cabral. We have the utmost trust and confidence that the Court will render a judgment that will protect and promote the general welfare.

(signed)
LUIS TAGANAS
Director
Food and Drug Administration

Swiss-Filipino rescued so swiftly

From page A1

KIDNAP victim Charlie Rath (right), 73, is escorted by a paramedic in Zamboanga City shortly after being rescued by the military at a coastal village on Wednesday.

first safe instance," Lt. Gen. Ben-jamin Dolorfino, the regional military commander, said at his command post at Barangay Labuan in the remote outskirts of Zamboanga City.

The rescue took place a week after al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf bandits beheaded three hostages they took hostage on nearby Basilan Island.

Rath, limping and visibly thinner, Rath was fed porridge and checked by doctors at a military camp.

The 72-year-old businessman, who was born in Zamboanga City to a Filipina mother and a Swiss father, was then taken to Zamboanga City Hall, where he briefly met journalists.

When asked if there was a day he did not feel threatened, he said, "I don't think so."

'Very special kind ops'

Cameras seized Rath from a beach resort in Zamboanga on April 4. They also tried to kidnap his German friend, Karl Reichling, 67, but he resisted and managed to get away.

In the early days of his jungle captivity, the kidnappers suggested Rath would be beheaded by slashing their necks with their fingers, Zamboanga Mayor Celso Lobregat quoted the freed hostage as saying.

"The kidnappers released a video a few weeks ago, showing Rath pleading for his life. They had demanded P20 million and were negotiating with local officials at the time of the rescue, Dolorfino said. He said no ransom was paid.

Authorities initially suspected the Abu Sayyaf was behind the abduction, but officials said the kidnappers appeared to have been allied both with another rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Zamboanga Governor Cesar Climaco said that Rath's freedom was the result of joint military and police operations. "It was due to a very special intelligence operation," he said.

'I missed a good beer'

Rath, in a shirtsleeved polo shirt, was in a jovial mood in his news conference despite the TV take at, tached to his neck.

"I missed a good beer," he said, coming to have a drink with reporters once doctors declare him fit.

Rath, who is married to a Filipina and owns a coconut farm and a beach resort, said he did not know why he was seized by 10 armed men disguised as police and soldiers.

"Those people who have taken me, they were also surprised to see me. When I get there, they didn't know my name and from where I was," he said.

Rath said he also did not know what group could be behind the abduction of the kidnappers or the Abu Jahid. He gave nicknames to the gunmen "according to how they behaved."

"Like the guy I called Smoking Joe because he was a heavy smoker, the other guy I called Mighty Mouse as the real, 'when I would not walk anymore, he was the one carrying me around," he said.

Very trying and hard

Rath described his days in captivity as very difficult because they were highly mobile.

"The terrain was very difficult to maneuver because it was mostly 60 degrees slope and you run very much like one of beasts," he said.

Rath said the experience was "very trying and hard."

"Especially if your life is in a sedentary way. You know I am a senior citizen," he said. "The ordeal of camping out on different sites, walking, watching for news from the outside world is very trying and hard and can be really a telling experience."

Rath also suffers from diabetes—and his desire to stay alive was his utmost motivation.

"When I sit back, I can see the determination of my life pass in front of my eyes, what you have done, what you should have not done, how you inspire on life and things you want to stay alive. It warns you to come out of this stronger and better as that whatever mistakes you have done in the past, you can make up for it soon," Rath said, trying to control his emotions.

One of the best places

When asked if he would remain in the city after his ordeal, he said: "I want look here and I am living here continuously for 50 years and this is one of the best places in the world."

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romulo Burgos also announced yesterday that another Abu Sayyaf leader, fell into the hands of authorities on Wednesday morning in Balao-Balao, Lantawan, Basilan.

Burgos identified the military's latest catch as Kaiser Usman, a suspected Abu Sayyaf leader involved in the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnapping and the Lamitan siege. Usman carries a P1.2-million price on his head. With a report from AFP

DFA lines up trips for Noy

By Christine G. Avendaño

PHOTEURE DE LIXES IT OR NOT, PHILIPPINE STAR Tempo/"Inquirer" Aquino IG has an choice but to be a globetrotter when he assumes the presidency.

This early, the Department of Foreign Affairs has prepared a list of countries that Aquino has to visit as part of his role as the leader of the nation.

For his "debut" in the international community, Foreign Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio suggested that Aquino would attend the opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York scheduled for the second Tuesday of September.

There are dues other events that Aquino was proposed to attend—the annual of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is in June and the Asia-Europe meeting in Brussels, both in October and the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference in Japan in November.

"KUNG WALANG CORRUPTION... WALANG MAHIRAP"

An Appeal to P-NOY to end the anomalous implementation by DFA Sec. Alberto Romulo of the *government funded* ePassport Project and to revert its implementation to the original NEDA approved, Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme, with *no government guarantees and no Filipino taxpayer funds.*

In a news article titled "ARROYO HEARD HIGH PRAISE AT UN's" published by The Philippine Daily Inquirer last 02 June 2010, it was reported that Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo extolled Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "**outstanding performance** as chief diplomat not for the Philippines' standing in the world community." Romulo likewise stated that "**the Arroyo administration made sure the global Filipino got the best in consular services with the adoption of the electronic ePassport,** xxx." (boldfacing and underscoring supplied)

In reality, the ePassport is a graft-ridden project that was implemented by DFA Secretary Romulo resulting the **precipitate and totally baseless termination by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of an ongoing BOT contract. Filipino taxpayer funds were then used by the DFA to implement the machine readable or electronic passports (MRPs).**

On 24 April 2007, the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) filed criminal complaints at the Ombudsman against DFA and BSP officials on the anomalous implementation of the ePassport. Unfortunately, **more than three (3) years** have already passed but the Ombudsman has yet to take action on said complaint. **We now join the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) in its follow up and motion for resolution of the case by the Ombudsman.**

The original BOT contract, by its very nature, does not entail government expense. However, this BOT Contract, which was already in the process of implementation, with Phase 1 thereof already in place, was suddenly terminated by DFA Undersecretary Hidalin, "**upon instructions of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs**", in his letter dated December 9, 2005.

Remember are relevant excerpts from the MEMORANDUM filed by the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), alongside its **MOTION for LEAVE To INTERVENE** in the case of DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS and BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, versus HON. FRANCIS T. TALCON and BCA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION (G.R. No. 156457):

"The Undisputed Facts

1. **The Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Agreement between the DFA and BCA International Corporation was signed on February 8, 2001 after a public bidding.**
2. **BCA finished Phase 1 of the project on August 15, 2002.**
3. **The Machine Readable Passport and Visa (MRPV) Project Advisory Board recommended issuance of acceptance of Phase 1 on June 30, 2002.**
4. **The Notice of Termination was issued on December 9, 2005 by DFA Undersecretary Franklin Hidalin "upon the instruction of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs."**

Termination of the Contract

2.1 **The DFA anchors its termination of the BOT contract solely on the alleged failure of BCA to submit proof of its financial capacity to fully implement the project, despite the contrary findings and opinions of three (3) government bodies that had to do with the MRPV project.**

(The BOT Proponent has complied with the financial capacity requirement to fully implement the MRPV project.

As clearly stated and certified by the BOT Center, the Department of Finance and the MRPV Advisory Board of the DFA, the financial capacity BCA has been adequately shown "**as early as the prequalification stage**".

1. The BOT Center, in its letter to the DFA Secretary dated October 29, 2001 clearly validated BCA's financial capacity to undertake the project. Thus: "**At the outset, may we emphasize that the bidder's financial capability is established as early as the pre-qualification stage.** xxx As to the Secretary's specific query, may we invite your attention to **the conditions as embodied in your Notice of Award, issued on September 25, 2000, which prescribed the details of the required capitalization.** Specifically, item 3 under paragraph 2 states that if a project company is formed, its authorized capital stock should not be less than twenty five (25) per cent of the total project cost, xxx. **This is well above the requirement in your Notice of Award,** xxx

2. **The Department of Finance (DOF for short) likewise emphasized in its letter to DFA dated April 19, 2004 that: "yes the proponent's financial capacity and track record was already subject to technical evaluation during the bidding process and such evaluation should be given due consideration."** xxx **"BCA/PHILPASS has disbursed P303.8 Million representing development cost and has an available balance of P9.8 Million. These amount represent 36.5% of the project cost or 5.5% above the required debt equity ratio or 75%: 25% as reflected in the project's Terms of Reference (TOR)."**

3. In its Memorandum to the DFA Secretary dated January 14, 2004, the MRPV Advisory Board of the DFA itself was equally categorical in its position. Thus: "The Advisory Board believes that the financial standing of the proponent has been adequately evaluated during the prequalification stage of the bidding process. x x x"

The termination of the Contract is totally baseless, capricious, whimsical and arbitrary

Moreover, in his aforesaid Memorandum to DFA Secretary Romulo dated December 22, 2005, a few days after serving the letter of termination, Undersecretary Franklin Hidalin expressed the "reservation of the MRPV Advisory Board vis-a-vis the issuance of the Notice of Termination based on procedural and substantive grounds. **"Reason said Notice was not in accordance with Section 17.01 of the Amended BOT Agreement wherein the Department ought to issue a notice of default first and give the proponent a 90-day compliance period before the issuance of a Notice of Termination."**

Usec. Franklin M. Hidalin also emphasized in his December 22, 2005 Memorandum to Secretary Romulo that: **"xxx under the Amended BOT Agreement, the failure to prove financial capacity does not appear to be a valid substantive ground for terminating the contract."** (italics and emphasis supplied)

In other words, after only a few days following the issuance of the Notice of Termination on December 9, 2005 "upon the instruction of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs," Usec. Hidalin found the courage to admit his fears about the concern of the DFA MRPV Advisory Board regarding the "**precipitate**" termination of the BOT contract.

The BOT Center likewise expressed a similar concern in its communication dated December 23, 2005 to Secretary Romulo regarding the Notice of Termination. It said: **"We note that the DFA, should be mindful of the fact that the BCA/PHILPASS' rights are amply protected in the provisions of the Amended BOT Agreement."**

The BOT also cautioned the DFA Secretary of the adverse legal consequence of terminating the Agreement based on default. To stress it's grave concern, BOT quoted the following excerpt from the MRPV Advisory Board's Memorandum of January 14, 2004: "This option, once exercised, may open the DFA to criminal, civil and administrative lawsuits that could be initiated by the project proponent to contest the action of the DFA. xxx The DFA could expect a flood of lawsuits in case the DFA terminates the contract."

There appeared to be an ulterior motive for the termination.

The events that took place after the termination – albeit illegal and baseless – would, however, seem to explain such intransigence. Sometime after the termination of the BOT Contract, the DFA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with BSP for the latter to solicit bids to supply electronic passports to DFA. A Notice of Bidding for the same project was thereafter issued.

In the meantime, before the bidding could be conducted, the DFA entered into a negotiated or no-bid Memorandum of Agreement with a French company, Bolloré-Indonésie, for the procurement of passport laminates **at the price of Euro.87 per laminate.** In a competitive bid in Mexico last August 1, 2007, Bolloré-Indonésie offered the same passport laminates at only US$.51 or approximately **Euro.26 per laminate**. This figure was taken from records obtained from the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores of Mexico. Annex "A" hereof.

While intervenors are not making any conclusions that an ulterior motive may have motivated the BOT contract termination, the agreement for the purchase of grossly overpriced passport laminates, by itself, would appear to give credence to this inference. Again, while intervenors are hesitant to draw a parallel between this project and the ZTE deal, one cannot help notice such similarities.

In the ZTE project, a **BOT proposal** was turned down in favor of a **government-funded proposal.** Here, the **BOT contract** was terminated and, after such termination, a bidding for the same project was conducted but, this time, a **government-funded MRPV project** was bidded out."

LEANDRO MENDOZA
LEON ESTRELLA PERALTA
LORENZO T. CAPARAS

Palace: 50,000 jobs available when GMA steps down June 30

By Christine O. Avendaño

SOME 50,000 JOBS ARE AVAILABLE for the government next mid-list when President Macapagal-Arroyo steps down on June 30, Presidential Management Staff Chief Ehdie Rosario-Edeza said yesterday.

The number is apart from the 4,281 vacant positions for the management and executive levels in the government, Edeza said in a news conference in Malacañang.

She said her office estimated the list of vacancies in the bureaucracy, contained in two boxes, to the transition team of President-elect Benigno Aquino III this other day.

Edeza said the big number of vacancies for the government rank-and-file was a result of Executive Order No. 366, which phased out, merged, abolished or downsized government agencies in an effort to rationalize the functions of the executive branch.

25 political moves

Also included in the number of vacancies are contractual employees whose six-month work term is renewable, according to Edeza.

"Their contracts will end on June 30. We are leaving it to [the incoming administration] to decide if these contracts will be extended," Edeza said.

She said the Aquino transition team had asked for a list of agencies with employees whose contracts would expire on June 30.

Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the Palace would not issue an edict on how 25 political appointees "are going to relinquish their posts."

The Department of Foreign Affairs issued on April 20 an order recalling the ambassadors, but Mendoza issued a directive on June 7 stopping the recall.

Quit by June 30, 'midnight' men told, cites Pagcor chief 'delicadeza'

From page A1

BRIAN GENILINO

"No reason was cited [for his choice to retire]," Mendoza said of Ocampo. "I think his letter was more of expressing his gratitude for the kind and confidence [of the President]."

Mendoza said Ocampo also stated in his letter Pagcor's accomplishments during his watch.

'Streak of morality'

On the phone with the Inquirer, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. expressed appreciation for the move of Ocampo who, he said, "at the very least has a sense of delicadeza."

Pimentel said propriety "is not easy to many people to do, and this is [even in] a man who is not elected] ad-mired by our friends in the media."

He said Ocampo showed "a streak of morality" in disassociating his agency before the Aquino administration takes over.

Mendoza himself said he was not surprised by Ocampo's offer to retire.

He said a number of officials, including Ocampo, had planned to their resignation letters, and that Comelec "dealt" Talamucan, director general of the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), had also quit.

Ocampo served in Mr. Arroyo's cabinet as undersecretary and concurrent adviser from 2002 and 2004. He was subsequently appointed Cabinet officer for provincial events—a position he held for a year.

In 2005, he was designated Cabinet officer for presidential engagements. He was named to the PEA in March 2006.

Legal advice

Aquino said he would seek the advice of his successor-in-waiting-designate, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, the Civil Service Commission, and the still to be named public secretary and presidential legal counsel before announcing whether he would ask the midnight appointees to tender their posts.

"It's a longstanding doctrine that the power to appoint carries with it the power to dismiss," said Aquino, who graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines College of Law in 1971.

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STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION
Filed By Bhinnet Picache II

	Name	Amount
1.	Bautista, Jaime A.	P10,000,000
2.	Acuzar, Jorge L.	10,000,000
3.	Perez, Alfredo R.	10,000,000
4.	Ayala, Augusto L.	10,000,000
5.	Ramos, Delia B.	10,000,000
6.	Yuson, Jorge A.	10,000,000
7.	Yuson, Margarita R.	5,000,000
8.	Lorenzo, Jose V.	5,000,000
9.	Perez, Alfredo R.	5,000,000
10.	Lorenzo, Jessica	5,000,000
11.	Ramos, Manuel R.	5,000,000
12.	Ayala, Francisco A.	5,000,000
13.	Perez, Jorge Manuel R.	5,000,000
14.	Yuson, Isabel R.	2,000,000
15.	Perez, Rosanna R.	2,000,000
16.	Acuzar, Lydia	2,000,000
17.	Ferguson, Christine	2,000,000
18.	Yuson, Federico	2,000,000
19.	Lorenzo, Caroline T.	2,000,000
20.	Perez, Alfredo R. Atty.	1,000,000
21.	Bautista, Maria Teresa	1,000,000
22.	Velasco, Alfredo D.	1,000,000
23.	Lorenzo, Marilyn	1,000,000
24.	Lorenzo, Jose T. Jr.	1,000,000
25.	De Leon, Teresa T.	1,000,000
26.	Benjamin, Jose Antonio G.	1,000,000
27.	Bautista, Jose Ramon B.	1,000,000
28.	Fernandez, Jose	500,000
29.	Soliman, Raquel	500,000
30.	Lorenzo, Teresita	500,000
31.	Perez, Alejandro R.	500,000
32.	Yuson, Antonio	500,000
33.	Arroyo, Ignacio	500,000
	TOTAL	P101,000,000

CASING THE JOINT The Arroyo transition team leadership Florencio Abad (second from left) and Ben Bautista (second from left) cruise Heritage Hotel in Pasay City ahead of the Palace groundbreaking ceremonies for the Quirino Grandstand after a tour of the Palace grounds. ARCHIVE

Mar heads transition team to oversee turnover of power in Palace

From page A1

MAR ROXAS Transitioning here

ident Binay during the presidency," Pimentel told the Senate.

Roxanne Jazmines and Binay underscored Aquino's motion since the presidential election was announced the morning after that resulted in Aquino's assuming (not) Sen. Manuel Roxas II losing to Binay in a closely contested race for the vice presidency.

He, however, said it was probably assisted for me to be affected by the less than expected level of visibility given Binay's long-standing friendship with Aquino and his family.

Pimentel said Binay was willing to take a bullet for Aquino's brother, the late former President Corazon Aquino, and even for the President-elect himself.

"He will have to live with that," Binay said of Aquino's decision to name Roxas the head of the transition team.

"We have to trust in the sound judgment of President-elect Noynoy," he added.

Locsin, a lawyer, said Aquino read a Comelec letter requesting a formal invitation to Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales to administer his oath as President on June 30.

The press conference, Aquino said, was not related to his people much of the details concerning the inaugural.

He said that he wanted time to focus on his inaugural speech, and that he was still deciding whether to make it among the more or light-and-soundless the masses.

He is planning to take a three-day break before June 30 in order to "internalize everything" and prepare himself for his work.

Aquino assures undivided attention when he may when he assumes his presidency.

He continued to non-committal over the family residence on Times Street, which he said could "deteriorate" if he left it unoccupied. Malacañang Palace.

He said he planned to use the Premier Hotel House in the Palace compound in his working office still. Others and to stay the family residence on Times Street as a private sanctuary.

He added that having to launch for breastfeeding, he had requested the packing of his clothes and other personal stuff to household helper Yolly.

Aquino noted that he had seen little time left, with just two weeks to go, before the turnover.

He said he would appoint in a meeting with 2008 Miss Universe Dayawi Mendoza of Interiorlo, who is running the country in "ambassador of transparency" of Sinocrucis, the main supplier of the Comelec-envy on Election automated election system.

"I would want to meet everyone who wants to talk to me. Of course, I will have 400 who talking to 100 million Filipinos, but for the people who have something relevant to say to me, why shouldn't I or a meaningful meet with them and have an exchange of ideas?" Aquino said.

Noynoy: Please, I'm not superman, not Einstein

From page A1

hopes that the people would keep their expectations "realistic."

"You have to be humble to say you are not Superman and Einstein combined. We don't have all the solutions at your fingertips from yesterday," Aquino told reporters.

"Once you see stories of your limitations, by the end of the day, there are certain things to be left to God. You ask to be His instrument in making His kingdom on Earth apparent and, at the same time, you ask for the protection to do what has to be done," he said in an interview yesterday.

With two weeks to go before his inauguration as the 15th Philippine President, Aquino admitted there are a lot of people thinking from time to be a night-and-day difference" between his campaign promises and the same come Arroyo administration.

"As long as those expectations are reasonable, I don't see why I can't do what they expect of me," said Aquino, 50.

He said he would need two to three years to deliver on his campaign promises, mainly reforms in various sectors like the judiciary, education system and agriculture.

But while his sworn task of awakening the desire of the Arroyo administration was to formidable, it would still pale in comparison to what he faced in 1983 and another load awakened when they fought for the restoration of Philippine democracy, he said.

"What I am confronted with any challenge I look back at when they managed to do and what they managed to overcome," he said, referring to his former private, the martyred opposition fmr. Benigno Aquino Jr. and the late President Corazon Aquino.

Aquino Jr. was shot dead in 1983 at the Manila International Airport as he returned from US exile to resume his leadership of the democracy movement against former Ferdinand Marcos.

Corazon Aquino took over the fight from her slain husband and led the peaceful Edsa Peo-ple Power Revolution that eventually toppled Marcos in 1986.

Her death three years ago in the past last year triggered a massive outpouring of support for the family that turned her into an icon. Aquino is her key source to presidential. Street-cause. Adopting his parents' campaign color yellow. Aquino built his campaign on promises to combat graft.

Say challenge Binay had so far seems to pale in comparison to what they achieved. Both of them fought an oppressive Tin the best we can and entrust the rest to [God]," Aquino said.

He recalled that his father was imprisoned for seven years and seven months, and "all he had to do to get out of incarceration was to support the State Security of Ilocos Gen. Ver refused to do so."

As to his mother, she could have stayed for a quiet life after all the hardships she had endured during the historic 1986 snap elections, Aquino said.

"But she chose to participate to fulfill all the expectations of us by Edsa," he added.

STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION

Filipino
Bonggoy C. Aquino III
Period covered: Feb 9 - May 8

Name	Amount
1 Ejercito, Antonio	P100,000,000
2 Ejercito, Ruby	25,000,000
3 Lorenzo, Martin Ignacio	25,000,000
4 Tantoco, Filipinas	25,000,000
5 Yap, Andrew Bernardino	15,000,000
6 Javier, Leonardo G.	14,000,000
7 Aboitiz, Jon Ramon	10,000,000
8 Fonacier, Oscar	10,000,000
9 Tantoco, Rina	10,000,000
10 Gotianun, Josephine	10,000,000
11 Gotianun, Jonathan	10,000,000
12 Lim, Irene	10,000,000
13 Ty, Kelly	10,000,000
14 Ang, Tata	10,000,000
15 Diego, Felipe	10,000,000
16 Chang, Felix	10,000,000
17 Lorenzo, Jose Antonio	10,000,000
18 Tuason, Antonio	10,000,000
19 Aboitiz, Jaime	5,000,000
20 Aquino, Antonio	5,000,000
21 Benitez, George	5,000,000
22 David, Oscar S.	5,000,000
23 Lim, Philip	5,000,000
24 Aboitiz, Dionisia	5,000,000
25 Legarda, Angelica	5,000,000
26 Gotianun, Josephine	5,000,000
27 Ayon, Jose Isidro	5,000,000
28 Zamora, Salvador D.	5,000,000
29 Yu, Gregorio	5,000,000
30 Henry, Josephine	5,000,000
31 Chua, Michael	4,000,000
32 Sachs, Augusto Sr.	4,000,000
33 Chua, Ma. Rina	3,000,000
34 Sy, John G. D.	3,000,000
35 Dee, Edmund	3,000,000
36 Gotianun, Fernandina	3,000,000
37 Fernandez, Jonathan	2,500,000
38 Pernosa, Sylvia	2,500,000
39 Gonzalez, Francisco Jr.	2,500,000
40 Ong, Frank C.	2,500,000
41 Lorenzo, Pedro Jr.	2,500,000
42 Tuason,	2,500,000
43 Salcedo, Eduardo	2,000,000
44 Aboitiz, Erramon	2,000,000
45 Salcedo, Jaime	2,000,000
46 Salcedo, Jose Luis	1,500,000
47 Tantoco, Enrique	1,500,000
48 Tantoco, Jose Manuel	1,500,000
49 Tantoco, Jose Ma.	1,500,000
50 Tantoco, Maria Cecilia	1,500,000
51 Tantoco, Leonor	1,500,000
52 Lorenzo, Miguel Antonio	1,500,000
53 Lorenzo, Emmanuel	1,500,000
54 Lorenzo, Oscar	1,500,000
55 Victor, Anna L.	1,000,000
56 San Agustin, Cecilia C.	1,000,000
57 Tan, Alfonso	1,000,000
58 Dignadice, Cecilia S.	750,000
59 Barcelon, Jose Antonio	600,000
60 Cecilio, Jose Sandejo	600,000
61 Tanco, Tina	600,000
62 De Rosario, Eduardo	600,000
63 Aglipay, Bernadita	500,000
64 Cruz, Eduardo Jr.	500,000
65 Lim, Alfredo	500,000
66 Lim, Henry	500,000
67 Sy, Edward S.	500,000
68 Lopez, Antonio	500,000
69 Ty, Alfred	500,000
70 Lopez, Manuel	500,000
71 Reyes, Maria Teresa	500,000
72 Lopez, Alice L.	500,000
73 Lopez, Christina	500,000
74 Lopez, Federico	500,000
75 Reyes, Ambrosio	500,000
76 Gotianun, Josephine S.	500,000
77 Lim, Salvador	500,000
78 San Agustin, Federico	500,000
79 Tongco, Richard T.	500,000
80 Ong, Peter	500,000
81 Yao Tecson, Rina	350,000
82 De Jesus-Lopez, Grace	350,000
83 Cuenco, Jose Curipo	350,000
84 Lim, Antonio Jose	350,000
85 Mendiola, Antonio Jose	350,000
86 Mendiola, Alfonso	350,000
87 Aglipay, Bernardo	300,000
88 Sanz, Ricardo	300,000
89 Mendiola, Jose	300,000
90 Sanchez, Constantino	300,000
91 Sanchez, Ricardo	300,000
92 Lu, Caroline M.	300,000
93 Gonzalez, Hector	300,000
94 Cruz, Ma. Theresa	300,000
95 Tuason, Cecilia Lourdes	300,000
TOTAL	P 440,550,000

Tonyboy gave ₱100M, leads Noynoy's 96 big campaign donors

From page A1

said he spent P431.55 million for his campaign. The Nacionalista Party standard-bearer emerged third in the nine-way presidential race.

Villar's report said all his expenditures were "paid by [the] candidate out of personal funds." There was no list of contributors in his campaign.

The spending limit for a presidential candidate is P10 per voter or a total of about P426 million. The same limits applies to a vice presidential candidate.

Unbelievable

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said some assertions by candidates in the May 10 automated election who cited their expense reports were unbelievable.

"So far, the declaration of some candidates in their campaign expenditure filings were outright questionable or even debatable in some cases," Jimenez said in a recent media interview. He refused to name candidates.

He said some of the candidates claimed expenses that were "far less than what you would expect considering what you saw."

Cash-rich family members also bolted Sen. Manuel Bunye II. Aquino's defeated running mate, whose campaign cost about ₱280 million. (See list of donors on Page A12.)

Both Aquino and Bunye came from well-connected political families, with former presidents and politicians in their family trees.

96 Aquino donors

Aquino's statement of contributions covering the Feb. 9-May 8 period showed that the Presidential chief received a total of P448 million in cash donations. There were 96 donors to De Aquino camp. (See list on this page.)

Aquino was not able to spend all of his P448-million campaign kitty as his expenditures amounted to P403 million, the separate report to the Comelec said.

The report noted that all payments for his expenditures during the campaign came from the cash donations. He did not use personal funds in his campaign.

Sisters, too

Aquino's sisters—Sis. Elena "Bailey" Cruz, Aurora "Pinky" Abellada and Kris Aquino-Ong—gave a total of P50 million. Aquino-Ong, a popular television host, donated P15 million, Abellada P1 million and Cruz P5 million.

Former government officials and businessmen also figured prominently in the Aquino campaign finances.

Former Environment Secretary Felipe de Leon Sr., who served under Aquino's mother, late President Corazon Aquino, contributed P50 million.

Former Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, a member of Team Ki, a group of top government executives who resigned in 2005 amid allegations of Fertilizer Fund Misuse by Arroyo aide the 2004 election, gave P18 million.

Philip Juico, an agrarian secretary of the first Aquino administration, gave P6 million.

Hardware owner

Bernard Dy, a former ambassador to the Holy See and father-in-law of Aquino's sister Ballsy, gave P3 million.

Chinoy Dy Heng, owner of the biggest hardware in Gaisano City and a contributor, gave P50 million. Martin Ignacio Lorenzo, of the Bacolod House Food chain, shelled out P30 million.

The couple Elena and David Lim, of hotel Group Philippines and Destiny Cebu, the company that manufactures mobile phones, gave a total contribution of P30 million.

Bunye spent P586 million for his campaign.

Comelec documents showed that Bunye received P246 million from various individuals, mainly from the influential dynasty Ramos-Romualdez.

Bunye said he spent P31 million out of his own pocket for the campaign.

There were 31 donors to the Bunye campaign. The largest were his mother, Judy, and uncle, dynamic Group chief Jorge Araneta. Each shelled out P50 million to help the senator. The Pinoy clan contributed nearly P70 million.

Loopholes, fine

Jimenez acknowledged that the loose campaign finances were weak and full of loopholes.

"The law has been defanged. In previous elections, if you failed to submit an expenditure report, you could not assume office. But now, that provision is not in the law anymore," he said.

"In fact, if you don't submit an expenditure report, the worst that can happen is that you get slapped with a fine and it's less than P100,000," he said.

No cap on donors

Although there are limits on how much a candidate should spend for the election, there is no cap on how much a donor can give to a campaign.

Because there is no law limiting contributions from donors and the accounting is only limited to the campaign period, the official amount submitted would be less than the actual amount spent for promoting the candidates, Jesse Robredo executive director told the Comelec said in a recent interview.

Pooled donations

Cadic and candidates usually pooled donations under one name to prevent many contributors who did not want to be identified.

The Comelec said candidates must file a record of their expenses to the poll body not later than June 24.

Candidates who fail to submit must face administrative charges.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 17, 2010
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 34:4-6, 8-9
Gospel: Mt 9:1-35

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you pray, do not use a lot of words, as the pagans do, for they foolishly think the more they say, the more chance they have of being heard. So not be like them. Your Father knows what you need, even before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, holy be your name; your kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today the kind of bread we need. Forgive us our debts just as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from the evil one.' If you forgive others their wrongs, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. If you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive you either."

Commentary:
"If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you."
Stop and think:
Search your heart.
Who is in by your life that you have yet to forgive?
Are you able to forgive that person
for that situation
even your worst sinful person.
Start now.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Education challenge

EDITORIAL

POVERTY IS THE BIGGEST HINDRANCE TO EDUCATION, yet education can be the means for individuals to escape poverty. Students went back to school this week, and immediately the system got bogged down in long-standing problems. Whether the management of traffic for all commuters, or the inadequacy of physical infrastructure resulting in overcrowded, ill-equipped schools or bureaucratic snafus such as principals being unaware that the transfer of students has been authorized until June 16, the problems confronting the educational system seem insurmountable, even unsolvable.

We have too many students, too few classrooms, too few teachers handling too many classes, a proliferation of error-ridden teaching materials or a lack of materials, and parents having to contend with the collateral costs of sending their children to school, not to mention the uncompetitive salaries offered teachers. Add to this the nutrition problem, as students go to school with hungry stomachs, and nutrition programs are ill-funded and of short duration.

And we're just talking about the public educational system. Private schools also have its own problems, ranging from dwindling enrollment in some schools, to tuition increases putting parents in a pinch (too tales of the same sort).

During the campaign, the incoming Aquino administration made one of the major planks of its platform the reform of the educational system. The centerpiece of these reforms is adding years to basic and secondary education on a staggered basis. As it is, the competitiveness of our graduates has been reduced because other countries accredit diplomas that most internationally are criteria for the number of hours devoted to the subjects for which the diplomas was granted. For example, as a result of the adoption by European countries of the Bologna Accord this year, Philippine collegiate diplomas will no longer be recognized. As one educator has pointed out, the effect of this will be that European countries requiring undergraduate degrees will no longer make jobs requiring undergraduate-level education available to Filipinos. We can expect other countries outside Europe to eventually adopt similar policies.

In the manner of current practice here, Isagani Cruz, a former undersecretary of education, points out that while we match the number of units required for graduation, where we fall short is in the number of hours devoted to major subjects. That is because college has to focus on subjects that ideally should be taught in high school, which cannot be done because we devote fewer years to basic education.

The reforms the incoming administration intends to pursue are aimed at bringing the number of years of schooling on par with the years devoted to schooling in other countries. President-elect Benigno Aquino III said during the campaign that he planned to reunite the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and Tesda, to pursue a more holistic policy towards education, ideally additional years of grade school and high school means more young people will be able to choose between a vocational or white collar career path, with greater chances of being competitive, whatever their choice.

But even as the incoming government prepares to undertake these long-needed reforms, there remains the nuts and bolts, the basic problems confronting the educational system. We can hope for a less antagonistic relationship between public and private educators, allowing the pooling of resources. As Aquino put it, the government can choose to pump-prime the economy by inviting the shortage in classrooms, or it can pursue a targeted approach, where insufficient public classrooms in developed areas can be supplemented by cash transfers to poor families so they can enroll their kids in private schools. This would allow the government to focus on building the educational infrastructure in underdeveloped areas where no private schools exist to take in students.

This is the challenge ahead: balancing contending interests while avoiding the tendency to paper over problems through sleights-of-hand involving official statistics.

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Sowing dragon's teeth

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

JOHN "HERPICIDE" MUST HERBERT JOHN to a funeral. Or, more precisely, to Sen. Jr. Gen. Ruffy Biazon, dubbed as "Emperor" of the Philippine Senate, didn't wait to be named when Benigno Aquino III become president. He quit.

Ben Ilet, he bolted. Will stay on as donated funeral chief of staff until July 2011, he told Ally? President Macapagal Arroyo's departure that he serve until turning 56, the mandatory retirement age. The "Emperor's" term would terminate June 30, 2013, the day Aquino inaugurates Malacañang as core of June 30.

In so doing, Arroyo stomped on the incoming president's prerogatives.

Aquino would have none of it. "I'll appoint my own chief of staff," he declared.

"This was only the latest appointment that Ms Arroyo tried to event at quarters-at-midnight. She appointed scores to the judiciary, Police, government corporations, even the Liberal Party administration. This appointment altered unsolicited advice from Aquino taking his oath before the Aurora Supreme Court's Chief Justice to swearing midnight appointees.

Biazon morphed well-nilly into a high-profile fulfiller of Arroyo "sowing the dragon's teeth." The phrase means systematic fomenting of disputes. In Greek mythology, Jason sowed teeth of the dragon slain at the spring of Ares and from them rose warriors to do battle for Jason.

Arroyo's "dragon teeth" vied for businesses—until pulled. "The right to appoint carries with it the right to dismiss," Aquino's spokesman says. Why still fight for Arroyo and Jason's misdeeds already?

Mel Bangit. "The thief of shift comes in the glimmer of the president," his spokesman said. Bangit has started farewell visits, beginning with the 21st Infantry Division in Tarlac. Retired Budget Affairs Secretary Benedicto Ang Puzon is next.

"How to say goodbye with class" is not part of Philo curriculum. But "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu says: "The general who advances without courting fame, and retreats without shunning disgrace, whose only thought is to protect his country and do good for his sovereign."

(Email: jamlmercado@gmail.com)

Public participation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER AGAIN A TRIP I MADE TO Cavite many years ago. We were driving on a fairly big town in front of us from Tagaytay and one driver was in a talking mood. Shortly before we got to where we were going, we passed by a small town. "This is where I used to live," he said, and raised there. He was proud of that town. Not least because in the biggest town we were going, candidates (and voters only P500 each) in his town candidates paid voters P1,000. "We might be small," he boasted with a trace of self-deprecation, "but we think big."

I remembered that in light of letters to the editor that have been appearing of late proposing that the public does its part in making automation. We do our back for ways to do so, the letters are saying, that is trying to help bring traffic cops, not taking shortcuts, reporting corruption to the authorities. We have a new government, one that promises to be clean and honest. We can, and should, start doing these things now. The best of government is based on everything. We need to do our part.

I agree completely. For things could corruption thrives in that country's not just because we tolerate it but because we tend to approve of it. Proof of it is that between an honor teacher and a corrupt public official, we prefer nearly always to have the corrupt official as the godfather of our children during their baptism or wedding. Choosing the honest teacher does nothing for us—or so we think. Choosing the corrupt public official assures our children will get a job someday or have the protection of respected for power.

I don't know if there are here a culture of reviling crooks or venerating them. Other countries do. The ultimate case in Japan where figuring in a scandal so becomes an invitation to ex-treasure that public officials commit suicide to atone their families of it. Who knows? Maybe we can have a variation of Hideo Gan's Ukiyo-e painting which was to point the hands of unpaid drug pushers (all we see is yellow!). Maybe we can paint the high walls of the houses of the outgoing First Couple and their officials as scenes as "The Three Soldiers, Military Men in Politics and the Bureaucracy." They extend power "by getting appointed to important civilian posts and winning elections."

"The military is a product of its own peculiar existence, even a reflection of it," adds Oliveiros. Appointment of officers to civilian posts is to flaw "the very same working characteristics."

Many of us share Bangit's failure to read the old parties. "Whatever you go around, do not chase the best seat," the Filipino counsels. "If you happen to see someone sweeping, sweep more than you have been assigned. And your host will say 'Please give him some place.' When a dance is over, when you pass the lowest seat."

Look at Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay. He's planning to be named co-secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government. That's his "first and only choice," insists his spokesman. Binay is cheaper than the president-elect, he notes wryly. "Just thing off an office, a secretary, a budget, a staff, a motorcade of multibedding vans of Makati government supplement to the BIR."

Representative-elect Tomas Osmeña is delighted to maybe star-watching. People admire stars, he says, "but they watch Cinderella. He wants to take over the Bataan Economic Development Authority.

Osmeña also wants Aquino to name one of his supporters, Manny Archinal, to surveyor of the Philippine Ports Authority and National Economic Development Authority.

Osmeña also wants Aquino to name one of his supporters, Manny Archinal, to surveyor of the Philippine Ports Authority and National Economic Development Authority. Both seem from the most ecologically-devoted-among Dictators, the Cebu Daily News notes.

Aquino is swamped by people who "took the first plane to ride." Nobody pointed "go to the lowest seat." The children reminded. "Then your host will come and say to you 'Friend, go up higher.' And this will be a good honor for you." For whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

The new president must resist not the "drag on a tooth" while admiring those who, as Sun Tzu taught, "advance without courting fame, retreat without fearing disgrace ... whose only thought is to protect his country and do good for the sovereign."

(Email: jamlmercado@gmail.com)

INQUIRER born in partisanship

A LETTER FROM THIS HONORABLE management last June 1, signed by publisher Isagani Yambot, and I had accepted my "resignation" effective today. He alleged that I had made and announced my "decision" to resign last March in a meeting between him, opinion editor Jorge Sarao and myself. But as I wrote in response, I never resigned nor did I make such announcement at that meeting, which was called to thresh out guidelines for the coverage of the 2010 elections. After 21 years of continuous service in this newspaper and in a co-founder of sorts and original contributor, I would have been more formal about my intentions and put it down in writing. I stress this fact since the "decision" I was to have made in the "heated, tense and balanced stress." At that March meeting, I asserted I was too partisan against one candidate, naming a number of issues against him. But were all my fellow editors also so "neutral" and "nonpartisan"? Let the readers be the judge.

* * *

Ironically, this proud paper was born as a very partisan effort to strengthen the political opposition to the regime of Ferdinand E. Marcos. Joaquin Apostol, winning the presidency of the Philippine Press Institute, thought of spinning off the black-and-white Mr. & Ms. Magazine, which had covered the birthing of that opposition since the mimeographed days, into a newspaper to cover what awaited event. I made arrangements for her, Letty Magsanoc and myself to consult, among others, opposition leader Ramon Mitra, later to become Speaker. Mitra's response was, if it ain't broke, why fix it? He was afraid Mr. & Ms. magazine, which at one time hit the 600-thousand-and-still-million mark in street sales, would suffer if we rounded out as a newspaper. Years later he admitted that he was wrong.

In the early months, the fax machine was only beginning to be popular. Soon everyone in the newsroom was on computers, except for Isagani Yambot, Nestor Mata and myself. But that was also the time when huge breakroom vans farting as and one could beat grooms as computers cooled out—except for the three or so who continued merrily to pound our Underwoods. Finally I computerized and was forced to learn the ano-

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cassaman

dens and then the e-mail. As I roamed around the country and the world over the years, my letters were web-savvy husband Isandri patiently stored me, sending my columns from cyber-heaven. But, whoever's responsible for computer or website errors, I'm not to blame.

* * *

Iconic CBN anchor Loni King, in celebration of his 25 years in broadcast journalism, pulled what his listeners considered the 23 most significant events in those years: the 9/11 bombings in the US and the election of the first US black president came on top. Over the two months since Gene Sandoval's heroic flight I sought to look back at my twelve years in the boycott and all kinds of regulars came rushing back through the mist of memory. I had witnessed the swearing-in of three presidents: Cory Aquino, whom I had followed all over the country as a reporter for Mr. & Ms., at Club Filipino on Feb. 25, 1986; Fidel Ramos at the Luneta on June 30, 1992, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20, 2001 atop a makeshift stage at the Edsa Shrine, and again on June 30, 2004 in front of the Cebu Capitol.

* * *

I remember how Evelio Javier, Lorna Kapunan Tan and I dined locally to the mounting hotel-to-lodge one-nominee to his Iloilo home, to coax him into the run to end-to-the mano-election, as it is until all opposition forces behind Cory. I recall the icy south Cory would give me, as though she was starving through clear glass, in Edsa or anywhere when I began to be critical of her parents' name. I recall how then-AFP-Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos singled me out and scolded me during a press con, for interviewing rebel leader Gregorio Honasan on the golf grass of Camp Aguinaldo the August 1987. The letter had only little to

do with the Honasan interview. I had made and announced my "decision" to resign last March in a meeting between him, opinion editor Jorge Sarao and myself. But as I wrote in response, I never resigned nor did I make such announcement at that meeting, which was called to thresh out guidelines for the coverage of the 2010 elections. After 21 years of continuous service in this newspaper and in a co-founder of sorts and original contributor, I would have been more formal about my intentions and put it down in writing. I stress this fact since the "decision" I was to have made in the "heated, tense and balanced stress." At that March meeting, I asserted I was too partisan against one candidate, naming a number of issues against him. But were all my fellow editors also so "neutral" and "nonpartisan"? Let the readers be the judge.

* * *

Ironically, this proud paper was born as a very partisan effort to strengthen the political opposition to the regime of Ferdinand E. Marcos. Joaquin Apostol, winning the presidency of the Philippine Press Institute, thought of spinning off the black-and-white Mr. & Ms. Magazine, which had covered the birthing of that opposition since the mimeographed days, into a newspaper to cover what awaited event. I made arrangements for her, Letty Magsanoc and myself to consult, among others, opposition leader Ramon Mitra, later to become Speaker. Mitra's response was, if it ain't broke, why fix it? He was afraid Mr. & Ms. magazine, which at one time hit the 600-thousand-and-still-million mark in street sales, would suffer if we rounded out as a newspaper. Years later he admitted that he was wrong.

In the early months, the fax machine was only beginning to be popular. Soon everyone in the newsroom was on computers, except for Isagani Yambot, Nestor Mata and myself. But that was also the time when huge breakroom vans farting as and one could beat grooms as computers cooled out—except for the three or so who continued merrily to pound our Underwoods. Finally I computerized and was forced to learn the ano-

dens and then the e-mail. As I roamed around the country and the world over the years, my letters were web-savvy husband Isandri patiently stored me, sending my columns from cyber-heaven. But, whoever's responsible for computer or website errors, I'm not to blame.

* * *

Iconic CBN anchor Loni King, in celebration of his 25 years in broadcast journalism, pulled what his listeners considered the 23 most significant events in those years: the 9/11 bombings in the US and the election of the first US black president came on top. Over the two months since Gene Sandoval's heroic flight I sought to look back at my twelve years in the boycott and all kinds of regulars came rushing back through the mist of memory. I had witnessed the swearing-in of three presidents: Cory Aquino, whom I had followed all over the country as a reporter for Mr. & Ms., at Club Filipino on Feb. 25, 1986; Fidel Ramos at the Luneta on June 30, 1992, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20, 2001 atop a makeshift stage at the Edsa Shrine, and again on June 30, 2004 in front of the Cebu Capitol.

* * *

I remember how Evelio Javier, Lorna Kapunan Tan and I dined locally to the mounting hotel-to-lodge one-nominee to his Iloilo home, to coax him into the run to end-to-the mano-election, as it is until all opposition forces behind Cory. I recall the icy south Cory would give me, as though she was starving through clear glass, in Edsa or anywhere when I began to be critical of her parents' name. I recall how then-AFP-Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos singled me out and scolded me during a press con, for interviewing rebel leader Gregorio Honasan on the golf grass of Camp Aguinaldo the August 1987. The letter had only little to

in the hotel news report last Monday by Jeffrey M. Tupas of Inquirer Mindanao, Abaya did not she talked to her three predecessors, retired Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Ramos and Aiora Durian, chair of the Mindanao Development Authority.

Abaya's nomination was a shocker. On the 16 names did a billion-peso contract with one who responded to our questions with a blank by three sources which reads like a whodunit novel on the deadly game of corruption.

What Abaya revealed in writing that recent Mindanao forum was not the reason on the sideboard a deep, fishy pool. She said, "I didn't know new long these things had been going on."

Abaya said she did not want to get into the predecessors, she did not want to get into the blame game. But she admitted that, out of all, she did not want to shame people. But she made it known to all that there was "something very wrong, something that we could not accept."

Abaya zeroed in on the illegal disbursements. As a result of her appointment and to restore long seen short. Abaya ended up dismissing some 70 DBMP employees.

And these were Abaya's second day!

What a kick-in-the-pants! Inquirer Mindanao bureau Doing "forgot" office maintenance and without an appointment. Could her my problem and asked her if the amount I am supposedly to be given month was legitimate. She looked puzzled as she looked at me. "Sir, are you serious?" I knew it really puzzled. Ching is a good friend, I've known her to be upright and candid. She advised me not to sign anything and pointed to both into the situation. She said, "Kuya, be serious." This was to be about 1 billion pesos. Ching's concern is that friends to whom I witnessed my concerns. But I couldn't dwell on that. I had a problem and I was determined to do something about it. Inevitably, it was another developer night."

A full-blown story on Abaya's revelations will come out another time in another space in this newspaper.

Send feedback to carcapdel@gmail.com or www.twitter.com/carl

Life is difficult

A BASIC DEMO GRADUATES TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO QUIZ me lapses about the realities of life: "You cannot escape death." "Financial things are part of everyday life." "Love is not always sweet." "What they are trying to tell me is that life is difficult.

Up to now, just weeks prior to leaving a bachelor's life, said mentioned folks are still trying to dissuade me from getting married come August. "Mike, you're not yet ready. Yes, you can get married, but are now," one relative keeps telling me. Many others seem to think that these issues simply do not already 26. "Tatlo your studies first," they advise me. "Study abroad first." "Make it in movies first." He finally are not naturally getting married and babies.... Ed. first." "Consider economics in your plans." "You are not yet financially stable."

Even during the mandatory marriage seminar that we had to attend before being issued a marriage license, the speaker said, "It is the duty (to remind an over-and-over again) how life is hard these days. And I was there to illustrate the problem by making a list of the financial needs of a family (and I thought I had already left that behind).

I know that getting married is a difficult thing. However, I ask, should difficulties prevent us from engaging in things that are love-to-do, some to do, or are destined to do?

* * *

I got hurt one day when a friend commented on a cake that I brought for our get-back lunch, "*Ay hindi* (a popular Brazil). Cheap na naman." I was taken aback because even though it was not the brand he preferred, it tasted good, and some of our friends liked it. The next time we met, I brought the most expensive cake from that cake house, and I was floored by his reaction: he still wasn't satisfied with how it tasted.

I observed the same thing with different people. While I enjoyed the taste of the food and admired how they were presented, I still heard comments like "The soup tastes like water," "Your steak is tough."

If this is really difficult, how come people can still afford to complain about food?

* * *

"Boys," a relative once greeted, "don't get married yet. We're not financially well off, yet."

What I saw was a family in the fridge and lots of leftovers too. Obviously they could afford to eat whatever they liked. In one room, there were so many pairs of shoes gathering dust that not even a cockroach could have worn them all. Unused mice looking clothes filled the closet. There were three laptops in the house, a big, new flat screen TV coupled with four speakers on the floor. The house was overcrowded with multiple phones for each family member, and the room assigned to me was bigger than the whole house of some lolas, poor families that I have visited.

One day was full from us you when my wife treated me to dinner at a restaurant. The space she landed us good that a couple of tables away from us. I thought, "What is she up to?" Then I started getting it the moment I remembered that there were days when she only ate once a day, while my family could afford to eat sumptuous meals. I was surrounded by people who would always have three meals a day and yet they would still say they did not have enough.

If this is indeed life's trials, how come people can afford to spend hours in front of Facebook, party till the wee hours of the morning, and buy everything they need and more?

And Max's movie said, "Religion is the opium of the masses." By washing them religion, people become more willing to bear the difficulties of life by thinking of their reward in the afterlife? Is that it?

I would say, "Material things and love of country are the drabs and cocaine of the present life." And how dangerous they are! People are drawn towards these things, and once they take it, they look for more and more and more and more. They can get addicted to the point that the order of things are not followed.

I do not stating that material things are bad. On the contrary, they can be used to make good things. Jhun is why they are called material goods. In fact we need them to survive and enjoy our present life. We need money to buy clothes, to go to school, to buy tools we need, to buy a house to pay the rent, to go out and relax once in a while, to help people in need. However, based on what I have seen in this life, the between using money as a means to get the things we need (as me the money to help other people) and money dictating to us to splurge in the things that we want.

It is sad to see some people I know who have all the essential things they need. Their weekly allowance was more than my monthly allowance (and we have the same salary) and more than my monthly salary). They looked happy on the surface, but I was surprised to find out that some of them really were not. While their parents were busy working hard to provide them with materials things, they could not give them the time and attention they also needed.

* * *

"Mike, don't get married yet, you're not yet ready" this relative insisted for the nth time. I just smiled, refusing to accept her definition of happiness. I remembered what the Little Prince said, "What is essential is invisible to the eye." No, my wedding will not cost hundreds of thousands of pesos, just like what I have been able to afford so far. In fact, we arranged on expenses (no dress, no limousine, just the Mass and the marriage fee, which are the essential ones), and the exception is only the shoulder of people. But there will be love, the sacrifices, the time, the affection, and the other intangibles that we can give each other even if we cannot have our elaborate wedding. I am sure that with the grace of God, there will be enough to sustain our life together even if we would have many kids. With these, I know we will be able to overcome the difficulties of marriage and fulfill what we had said to say, "You can only repay your parents by being good parents yourselves."

Michael Joseph B. Lazaro, 26, teaches psychology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Young Blood

Michael Joseph B. Lazaro

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed. first.

New Media and democracy

(FOLLOWING ARE THE REMARKS I MADE AT THE 5th Forum of Emerging Leaders in Asian Journalism held at the Ateneo de Manila University last June 8.)

DEMOCRACY "a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives."

So the dictionary defines it. And so, let us begin by accepting it. But let us also remember that we are heirs of the view that media finally considers itself an anchored South Asian in seeking in the sense that Edmund Burke coined it.

In terms of New Media let us adopt the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* definition of it as "those media that from traditional media it not the digitizing of media content into bits, but the dynamic life of the new media content and its interactive relationship with the media consumer. Another important process is that of what is called convergence, which involves the creation, publishing, distribution and consumption of media content."

Let us look at both producers and consumers in the context of both media itself and democracy.

In "Free at last," Eric Jaffee of *The Atlantic* said in April 19, 1965, the late Reuben M. Lacson in assisted, as most mainstream media does, that at work, press freedom is a necessary evil because it is a fundamental hallmark of democracy one where media should enjoy the freedom of what is often termed the press. The question then was whether media should ponder, should surrender to serving as the best watchdog democracies. He proposed that freedom has to better intelligent and informed. That freedom is responsibility, not the affluent as well as the disadvantage it." And of those freedoms, he put forward three essential ones: The freedom to study; the freedom to think; The freedom to express one's self.

I do believe that just as democracy is inconsistent *dare itself* to no longer involving mass audiences except in terms of entertainment, then as media practitioners we must also resign ourselves to the reality that we can no longer assume that a civic

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

culture exists.

In my keynote address *Si Isalin Buenvenida* it, the old news consumption model was based on the individual, forming part of the collective audience, receiving news and views as a part of that collective audience.

In contrast the emerging model has individuals essentially delegated the task of filtering content for their social network peers, former media peer is, and people that others in part or only the most and most likely to be interested in. Media is also augmented by many to the fore, without the rigor one debate or mechanisms for concerns that civic values formerly represented and produced.

Which brings us to Aaron Lanier's strong views on the emerging democracy. Now Lanier's criticisms are programs directly relevant to today's theme of new media and democracy. What we may tend to view as the democratic attributes of New Media are, instead, opportunities for fundamentally undemocratic behavior. Lanier has raised some pretty controversial points.

First, Digital Maoism, which he puts forward as an opposite view to the currently fashionable "wisdom of crowds." It seems of the Hive Mind, where the intended "collective intelligence" ends up as the online equivalent of Mao's Cultural Revolution.

Second, Cybernetic Totalism takes off from this, and says there is great danger in viewing cybernetics as a kind of Great Revelation, spreading an open, free-for-all approach — and as dangerous as — the scientific Marxism.

And third, a Culture of Sadism, which he ties to the anonymous, spiteful communities, the trolls in

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're handling and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Temporary appointment for Bangit is in order

LETTERS

IN SPITE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 14th Congress, the Commission on Appointments (CA) was rendered functio officio. All appointments pending consideration by CA rightly lapsed. Appointees were bypassed, Jun Ebcas, Alvarez, including Gen. Delfin Bangit said about 30 other officers of the Armed Forces, down the list, became jobless.

Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate president, announced that General Bangit had to relinquish his post, though, showing of interest that could not to circumvent with his being a high ranking military officer and a gentleman, replied that some politicians did not know what the Armed Forces are all about. Bayanan ng 6/4/10). Enrile then schooled his legal apostrate—Bangit need not resign but he should get a reappointment. Of course, Bangit be, since that of staff because of Presidents Arroyo's good want to lose. However, he lost his position—not due to any action of Benigno Aquino III—but by operation of law.

At the Department of Foreign Affairs, as either being promoted to chief of mission and ambassador concurrent claims he has subsumed to the CA only one of its capacities; one is not meaningful without the other. In the same manner, in the Armed Forces, an officer being promoted to four-star general and AFP chief of staff, cannot function if he has subsumed only one of his capacities; also would be viewed as merely being smart.

We are not exactly an admirer of Enrile. But he is, of course, one politician who certainly knows what the Armed Forces is all about. In fact, since their other politicians, he could feel better the political forces, military, legal, economic, social pulse of the nation. That's why decades after martial law, the man is still there—consulting, grinning, for big fun.

He said, however, to add to Enrile's legal proposal, Bangit should be given by President Macapagal-Arroyo a temporary appointment, together with the others bypassed officers, under the legal exception in the constitutional but unreasonable appointment. This is undoubtedly warranted under the present critical circumstances. Otherwise, some members of the military establishing might resign, thereby rendering useless the aggressive pronouncements of the Senator the AFP-Moromian during President Cory Aquino's time. Or if they like a case in point, we would not guarantee that we would not be supporting another pronouncements approach of the Supreme Court.

—NELSON S. LICHAUCO,
retired ambassador
nlichauco@hotmail.com

TV host Abunda more than a show biz figure

I AM MAKING THIS STATEMENT BOTH IN MY capacity as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Women's University and as a person who has known Boy Abunda in his professional capacity as media practitioner.

Abunda holds the degree of Bachelor of Arts, major in communication arts, from PWU. He earned the degree under the CAED-ETEAP program, which means Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program. Under this program, we evaluated the college credits he earned from the various institutions he attended, the quality of his work experience and achievements in mass communication, and required him to take enrichment courses to qualify him for the degree under the rules and requirements of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). He must also fulfilled the requirements and specifications of the program and was not just awarded the degree.

Key courses with coming his undergraduate degree, he has gone on to pursue post-graduate studies. He has earned 24 units in the form of graduate courses in interpersonal relations and diplomacy from the PWU-SIS School of International Relations and Diplomacy. He is currently working on his master's as a course requirement. These are serious courses of study and his being a media personality does not give Abunda any preferential treatment. He has to earn his grades. He has to take his studies seriously and he does. Perhaps more seriously since his peers because his well-wishers also become his critics. Abunda has to prepare for days of hard work in order to maintain his achievement and his standing.

Abunda has also conferred and in some of his programs, particularly Private Conversations which airs on television. He has interviewed over 500 individuals and he does all the research for underlings to prepare for the program. He does not just show up and ask questions. He does his homework. He takes his job seriously. This may be why he is such a very successful personality.

Abunda might be known in showbiz for show and work achievements lightly by virtue of his being a show biz personality. They would be mistaken.

Perhaps an indication of the kind of insight and appreciation that Abunda has about our society is that he was offered by no less than the president he is said to have been offered. By any measure, he is more than qualified. But sensitive and sensible as he is, he must have realized that some people might view a cabinet post the matter. He, therefore, wisely decided to decline. Media being, Abunda has only been elevated by becoming Bonjoc Aquino II has more important issues and problems to normalize. The Presidential's energies should be devoted to those, not to defending Abunda's proposed appointment to the Cabinet. By that token Abunda should refrain from anyway by a show helping the incoming administration succeed. And he is all the more admirable because of it.

—ON. BELINDA A. ROMUEL
Board Chair,
The Philippine Women's University

PD 1869 allows Noynoy to fire Pagcor's Genuino and its board members

SEC. ELENA 2nd TENTH HUMBOLDT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Management, Staff, particularly the management of Ephraim Genuino and members of the Pagcor board on the basis of Presidential Decree 1869.

Sec. 8 of PD 1869 provides that Pagcor "shall be governed and its activities be directed, controlled and managed by a Board of Directors ... composed of seven (7) members, three (3) of whom shall come from the Government service and shall be appointed by the President, while the other four (2) shall be from the private sector, who must at least 1 client of stock in the Corporation and who shall be elected by the stockholders of the corporation in the annual general meeting or in a special meeting called for such purpose. Each director shall serve for a term of one (1) year and until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified."

"One year long term," Senator-Rico said. However, PD 1869 and related laws provide limitations as to the appointed board members. These laws should be read by Malacanang in the light of the ruling of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Genuino et al. Under Sec. 8 of PD 1869, the president of the Philippines is armed with vesting power with respect to the 5/1 percent share of the government in Pagcor thereby manifesting his control over the board. By calling for a special meeting, the members of the board—under the Corporation Code of the Philippines and in the absence of an enabling law specifically covering government-owned and controlled corporations—can be removed with or without cause. It is therefore incorrect to categorically declare that because Genuino, et al are to serve for a term pursuant to Pagcor's charter, they cannot be removed from office. Just like any corporations, these officers and members of the board only serve at the pleasure and within of the voting authority. They have no vested right over the position entrusted solely based on the trust and confidence of the stockholders in person, with the voting power.

In addition, in the hand of the Executive department, the power to remove and reorganize persons is usual, modify, direct, reverse or recall the decision, judgment or resolution of the members of the Pagcor board. This is particularly evidence and clearly indicated in Sec. 7 (a) of PD 1869 declaring the powers, functions and duties of the Board of directors of Pagcor, to wit: "To perform such other powers, functions and duties as may be directed and authorized by the President of the Philippines or as may be necessary to prepare for the accomplishment of its purposes and objectives."

In sum, Genuino et al. can be legally removed with or without cause as a special meeting for this purpose and that the president of the Philippines has absolute control and supervision over the actions of the Pagcor board.

I sincerely hope that this humble opinion will be of help in enhancing the democratic principle of rule of law that has been severely eroded in the past nine years. Indeed, one should be mutually vigilant to avoid arbitrary freedom.

—FREDERICO M. MENDOZA II,
lawyer, fredo@i-cable.com

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Dry spell hounds pupils in poor village

By Jovic Cubito Soltes
Olongapo, Central Luzon Bur

IN BARANGAY HAMAnoan (pop. 2,500) at the slope of Mount Iraraq in Olongapo, Central Luzon Sat, the prolonged dry spell could result in schoolchildren not having pen, pencil and paper on the first day of classes. Or worst, not being in school at all for the rest of the year.

"Most of the parents of our schoolchildren are farmers who work in the uncultivated fields in the village. So, the dry spell and the absence of enough rainfall have rendered most of them (parents) without sources of income to send the school year soon," says Manuel Olivares, president of the association of parents and teachers of Hamanoan Elementary School.

"We are saying that education is free, and yet there are still many in our village who cannot send their children to school," says Olivares, also a village councilor.

With the start of classes, many parents still could not provide school supplies for their children, he says.

"The situation has always been like this. Children of parents who do not have permanent work and steady source of income always have a problem sending their children to school," he says.

The dry spell has worsened the situation, he adds.

Families here—their only source of income when the planting season is halted. "Their income becomes enough only during the harvest and selling season," he says.

Some families do not send their children to school because they could not provide them regular breakfast and lunch.

"To solve the high number of school dropouts in their villages, Olivares says officials went around the barangay to encourage poor families to send their children to school.

Aside from this, the barangay has supported the alternative learning system (ALS) of the Department of Education to receive out-of-school youths aged 9 to 12.

Olivares says the ALS module has helped those who cannot go to a regular school.

There are other means to help poor students.

Shirly Aquino-Lantin, 37, now aide in senator scholarship for her two children under the "Libreng Edukasyon" (free education) program of the DepEd and the provincial government of Central Luzon Sat.

Lantin, has five children and she and her husband have been providing for them by working in the farm and vending goods.

At present, she has yet to buy school supplies for her two children but she has vowed for it. "I would buy them before the opening of school," she says.

Hamanoan Elementary School has almost 600 pupils from the village and neighboring Barangays Santo Cristo, Tinio, Mau-Ogob and San Roque Communal.

The village has prepared for the school opening through Brigada Eskwela, a community effort sanctioned by the DepEd that includes cleaning and repairing of school facilities.

"But what we really need are books and chairs. We also lack funds to repair the school buildings," Olivares says.

Efficient in working long hours

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Barangay Hibago in Olongapo, Zambales Sat, walk past newly planted rice paddies at the end of the first day of classes, with the majestic Mount Iraraq rising in the background.

PUPILS in Hamanoan Elementary School in Olongapo, Zambales Sat, are greeted by damaged school buildings with leaky roofs last summer class on the first day of classes. Instead, grass and bamboo strips are scattered in the classroom. RAYMUND MACEDA/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Airbrush painting fascinates this Cavite artist

By Marcia Cinco
Los Baños, Laguna

WITH ONLY 12 years left, Gabo Gerrado had to drop out of college as he could no longer pay for his tuition. Both his parents were farmers working raising four children and he needed to skip school for a year to work in a fast food restaurant.

His experience, he says, was his inspiration to be an artist that mostly depicted social ills, however unconventional his technique may be to his own detriment on moral issues.

Gerrado's exposure to the arts started when his father briefly worked as a freelance animator to a boy, he was also a regular participant in poster making contests in school.

"I loved graffiti art," Gerrado says, recalling the times he would end up in the school principal's office because his drawings on the walls and on doors the corridors with pornographs in both female nudity or a long stretch of line on the wall.

His interest led him to taking up fine arts at the Philippine Women's University in Manila. There, he says, fellow art enthusiasts.

"We frequented art exhibits to see could have free snacks. Sometimes, we did not even know who the artist was so much so that we were congratulating ourselves and would later find out he was not the show's featured artist," he says.

In 2002, Gerrado was invited to join group shows or art exhibits by the late curator Bobi Velasquez in Quezon City and later in Pandacan.

"He treated critique as works. He taught us that art is an avenue of communication. That it should speak for itself even if the artist is not around to explain the painting to the viewer," Gerrado says.

CRUTY Gerrado's airbrush painting on metal canvas entitled "Multi-personality"

His first works, which were oil on canvas, were inspired by what he would read in the newspapers or have from where one news.

One of them was titled "Sniper"—a colloquial for illegal street vendors. The painting depicted the police arresting vendors in Recto.

As years passed, however, his artist friends had shifted their canvas to advertising or industrial design or had worked abroad.

This, however, did not stop Gerrado from pursuing his love for the art. In 2006, he assumed his first solo show, which did not mean out so well.

"I thought I had to be different from other artists. Most of us then were doing oil on canvas and I just felt I was limiting myself," he recalls.

He turned his attentions to his other interests—which were graphics on motorcycles and cars, and tried using airbrush on fabric canvas.

Discipline

"It really taught me discipline. With airbrush, you have to finish the work within a certain period because it would dry up easily. Unlike with acrylic paint, you could leave it even for over a year and simply repaint the canvas. It is also not as easy to remove mistakes and redo it with airbrush," he says.

Gerrado, however, still had struggles and was far from satisfied as his goal was to challenge the norms.

A year later, he tried selling metal instead of fabric canvas for his paintings.

"I looked it (airbrush painting on metal) up in the Internet and read books. Airbrush painting was not very known in the Philippines. If there were some, those were for car hoods or car T-shirts but not really as paintings," he says.

He recalls an instance when his mom saw one painting of his—a technique in painting on metal surfaces. "Perhaps they know at the beginning that I was only there to ask around. They asked me what my cut was but I really did not have one. The first thing that came to my mind was a four-type Lancer. They said things like 'we don't do models like that anymore' and drove me away," he says.

Gerrado says airbrush painting on metal costs more than oil painting on fabric canvas mainly because of the materials to be used.

A 4 x 8-feet galvanized iron sheet costs P2,800, exclusive of the expenses for paint, rust-proof chemicals and solvent needed for airbrush painting.

In 2007, Gerrado had a solo show of airbrush paintings on canvas in Manila. The exhibit, entitled "Pawnshop It," featured his paintings of Jesus Christ on a pedestal and subtle depictions of poverty against the fascinating oil prices.

He says he got the concept from his experiences and observations while commuting on jeepneys.

In his next shows, his other works showed President Maria-gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wearing prisoner garb which, he says, depicted her immunity from suits.

Another painting featured an image of wrestling icon Hulk Hogan with details showing wrinkly postures being reportedly to other commentators.

Political art

Gerrado admits that not all artists believe are ready for the type of political art and the mediums he used for his paintings.

"Here in the Philippines, what is still marketable, especially among those who have just inserted reddening, are paintings of landscapes and those with rose' light hues," he says.

But he says he is surviving, with most shows lined up. "I only need to sell my works so I could support myself and be able to fund my next projects," he says.

Ms. Bobi Velasquez(s) once told us, if you want to paint flowers during those hard times, you must really have a big inner problem."

CALOY Gerrado's experiences and observations serve as his inspiration for his artworks.

Assistant Editor Tony Hernandez

Across the NATION

Coast Guard moves out Taal villagers

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD HAS DEPLOYED three "special operations" teams to Taal Lake in Batangas to conduct maritime patrols and assist in the evacuation of volcano island residents.

The teams, composed of divers and other maritime search-and-rescue specialists, will reinforce personnel of Coast Guard detachments in the lakeside towns of Talisay and San Nicolas, according to a directive issued by Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo, Coast Guard commandant.

The Coast Guard teams are "equipped with four rubber boats to evacuate to the mainland.

They also advised both foreign and local tourists not to take short trips in Pulo, or entertained to view the crater.

Like the Coast Guard, local officials have repeatedly appointed to Taal Volcano Isle to leave the area, citing warnings issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs has raised the alert level in the Taal Lake area to 2, as it also warned that Taal, the volcano closest to Metro Manila, was acting up.

Alert level 2 means magma was rising "which could eventually lead to a volcanic eruption."

Other signs

The other signs that an eruption was imminent were if islands around the volcanic cone and river levels on the shore became lower, warned Phivolcs.

During the past two weeks, an undisclosed number of high-frequency-type volcanic earthquakes has been detected in the lake area.

More than 400 persons have evacuated from Pulo, sheltered Comelec.

"The evacuees include elders, women and children. Most of them are now staying with their relatives in the mainland," which is a 30-minute boat ride from the island, he said.

But majority of Pulo's 6,000-plus residents have refused to leave their homes unless forced by government authorities, said reports reaching the Coast Guard.

Continuing orders

According to Comelec, "many Pulo residents are confused."

"During the time of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, the government declared Taal Volcanic island a no-man's land. But during the Ramos administration, the government later named it as recreation destination," the Coast Guard officer said.

There are six villages in the island—Tabla, San Isidro and Balakilan in Talisay; Alas-as and Pulang Bato in San Nicolas; and Calauit in Balete, another lakeside municipality.

The other barangay municipalities with an alert include Agoncillo, Ibo, Boboin, Leynd, Lemery and Mataas na Kahoy as well as Tanauan City.

The 322-meter high volcano, which has a total of 47 craters, has been on alert level 1 since Nov. 23, 2009.

Taal has erupted 33 times in the past, its last eruption was on Oct. 5, 1977, but its most violent was on Sept. 28-30, 1965.

Iloilo power co-op studies suit vs Napocor over brownouts

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—AN ELECTRIC cooperative in Iloilo may sue the National Power Corp. (Napocor) for its failure to supply adequate electricity in the province in alleged violations of its contract with the cooperative.

Dennis Verallacion, lawyer and director of the Iloilo Grain Cooperative (Ilect 2), said Ilect 2 would take legal action against Napocor for breach of contract because the state-owned power firm failed to supply the amount of electricity stipulated in its contract.

Ilect 2, which supplies electricity to 14 towns and one city in Iloilo province, has resorted to rotating brownouts since last month due to a shortage of electricity in the Visayas grid.

4-hour outages

Other electric cooperatives on Panay Island, including those in Iloilo City, have also resorted to enforcing up to four hours of brownouts after the Panay Diesel Power Plants (PDPP) stopped generating electricity starting May 26.

The PDPP, which was sold to the IPC Island Corp. (IIPC), formerly Salcon Power Corp., stopped operating its generators after its fuel subsidy from Napocor ended on May 25.

IIPC bought the 146.3-megawatt PDPP and 21-MW Bohol diesel power plants for $5.05 million in November 2006.

Napocor had agreed to supply fuel at a subsidized rate to IIPC to operate the PDPP 1 and PDPP 2 starting March 26, 2009, after it turned over the plant to the Singaporean firm to prevent a power shortage in Iloilo.

Subsidy stopped

The subsidy was supposed to be in effect until measures to stabilize power supply in the province are put in place.

One of those measures is the Visayas Supply Auction Program of the Department of Energy, which would allow private power generators to sell their excess supply to the Visayas grid.

Distribution and power supply from the PDPP was discontinued without a new contract and despite an existing power supply agreement with Napocor.

Napocor officials said the fuel subsidy was just a temporary arrangement.

1 year of brownouts

Napocor officials said the Visayas would continue to suffer from brownouts until the end of the year or early next year because of delays in the projects.

The Visayas grid has a peak demand of 1,330 MW. Officials said they expect supply to improve with the operation of at least three coal-fired power plants—the 246-MW coal-fired power plant of the Cebu Energy Development Corp. (CEDC) in Toledo City, the 200-MW coal plant of the Korean Electric Power Corp. in Naga City in Cebu and GBPC's 164-MW coal-fired power plant in Iloilo City.

STATE OF EDUCATION
The Bangan Elementary School in Bohol, Bangpat, which was hit hard by a terrible fair year, welcomed students on Tuesday in a dilapidated state. The 50 students enrolled there will have to make do with a two-classroom for the first day of classes.

Quezon mayor seeks probe of 'buried' cases at DOJ

LUCENA CITY—SAN FRANCISco, Quezon Mayor Honorio Tan has called on President-elect Benigno Aquino III to investigate what he said was a practice by some officials of the Department of Justice to bury records of murdered cases to the detriment of litigants.

"My wife and I had both lived under constant fear and anxiety while waiting for the resolution of our case pending in the DOJ only to find out that the charges had already been dismissed almost a year ago," Tan said on Tuesday.

Tan said the incoming Aquino administration should order an immediate investigation. "We don't want other litigants to suffer what we've been through," he said.

He expressed gratitude to Justice Secretary Alberto Agra for the release of the decision on their case. Ironically Agra's predecessors, Agnes Devadeson, is Tan's previous main and former colleague at the Quezon Mayor's League.

1998 charges

In 2008, the National Bureau of Investigation charged Tan, his wife Jennifer and five others with kidnapping and serious illegal detention. Five others were also charged with serious misconduct and kidnapping of public officials.

The case stemmed from the two counts of rape charges lodged by a 12-year-old girl against the acting municipal treasurer of San Francisco.

The alleged victim claimed she was also abducted by Tan and another man and coerced to drop the rape complaint.

"Every time my lawyers sought updates from the DOJ, the replies were always: The case is still being studied," Tan said.

Year-old ruling

On May 24, however, his lawyer once more asked for a case update and was able to finally secure a copy of the decision, which was issued a year ago—June 15, 2009. Tan gave a photocopy of the document to the inquirer.

Signed by Carlos Isagani, state prosecutor II, and approved by Severino Gaña Jr, senior assistant chief state prosecutor, the DOJ resolution ruled that the criminal case against Tan and company had been dismissed for "insufficiency of evidence."

"Satisfying the parties' evidence, this office is not convinced that there was kidnapping or illegal detention," the DOJ said.

The decision noted that the victim had in numerous instances freely moved in public places in Metro Manila, Valenzuela City and Quezon City during the supposed period of kidnapping and illegal detention.

"I was shocked when I read the DOJ resolution. My wife cried in anger. But we thanked the Lord that our agony is now over," Tan said.

He recalled that while they were crying and praying for the resolution of the case, his family suffered notoriety and insults. —Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Fate of casino opposed by bishops left hanging

DAGUPAN CITY—ORDAINED Bp. City Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. said while a proposal to establish a casino in the city had been approved by the city council in 2006 since the plan may not push through because it has to pass through some approving bodies.

"There is nothing definite about it yet," Perez said.

He said the Thunderbelt Resources of Nevada proposed the establishment of a casino at the Leland Rainbows Resorthere.

"[The council resolution] is still subject to approval of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). So this night not be realized after all," Perez told the Inquirer by phone.

On Monday, seven bishops in Pangasinan, La Union and Nueva Ecija opposed plans to establish casinos in Urdaneta and San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija.

In a statement, the bishops said the operation of more casinos would "open more doors to corruption" and lead to financial problems for families of gamblers. It would also increase crime incidence and breed prostitution, they said.

Bp. Henry Adove, son, Amadeo III, would sanction the renewal past on June 30, said he agreed with the establishment of a casino in the city.

—Yolanda Gorilo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Baguio universities start leaving downtown

BAGUIO CITY—LOCAL UNIversities have started relocating their colleges away from downtown, to help decongest the city's university belt and redirect a metropolitan Baguio plan that took student fares subsidies in part.

On June 30, Saint Louis University (SLU), the largest and oldest university here, opened its School of Accountancy and Business Management (SAMB) building in Barangay Nakabuang to 8,000 students.

SLU's 13-storey SAMB building is the university's largest college. It is expected to decongest the crowded main campus on Session Street, about 7 kilometers away.

Raymundo Bonifacio, dean of the College of Social Sciences at the University of the Philippines Baguio, said the city became a national campus for public education with the establishment of Teachers' Camp and because of the missions of the Congregatio Immaculatae Cordis Mariae (CICM or the

THE ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY renovated its largest college in a new campus 7 kilometers from downtown Baguio.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation), which established schools the SLU.

Near the 1950s and after World War II, Baguio began to draw students from the provinces, which increased the city's population beyond the intended 25,000 inhabitants, he said.

To address overpopulation, the National Economic and Development Authority drafted the concept called BLISS, a growth area that would be composed of Baguio and the four neighboring towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Tuba and Tuba.

But BLISS got stuck in the drawing board although local governments in the area agreed to participate in adopt it.

"We really have to decentralize our population in the main campus," said Reynaldo Bautista, BASM dean.

The BASM building has 30 classrooms, laboratories, a theater and student dormitories.

The University of the Cordilleras (formerly the Baguio Colleges Foundation), which has 12,000 students, is the first among leading universities here to move out.

UP Baguio also used to educate its campus in Isla, Benguet, but it didn't push through.

—Frederic Bertrad, Commission on Higher Education director in the Cordilleras, said relocating schools outside downtown Baguio can lower the city's economy. Elmer Kristian Aningayo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Marcos rights victims expect 'historic closure'

From page A1

lady lauds the Marcos in the House of Representatives and last year, President-stand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., in the Senate.

"This is going to be historic. It's going to be like a step toward finally getting closure to the 1986 Edsa Revolution," Rosales said.

Yet still adrift on this sub-par of January Bar characterized the Aquino and Marcos regimes," she added.

She said the surviving Marcos victims were going to assist on Antipolo to map out what they need to do and for the new administration.

Blocked by Ms Arroyo

Besides said the P10-billion compensation bill failed to pass in Congress because sculpting President Macapagal-Arroyo blocked it although the Philippines had promised Switzerland to compensate the victims.

The P10-billion was taken from the Marcos ill-gotten wealth recovered from Swiss banks. Before Besides had released $683 million to the Philippines, it obtained a promise from the Philippine government that the victims would be compensated, Rosales said.

The 20-year Marcos regime was ousted in 1986 by a popular revolt.

The bill passed the Senate but failed to get through the House because President Arroyo did not want it," Rosales said.

Specific law

Congress must enact a specific law to compensate the victims because under the specific relief law, all recovered ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies should go to agrarian reform.

With Aquino now set to take the reins of power, the human rights victims expect that the compensation bill to become law, Rosales said.

"We have two chair of the House committee on human rights and was supportive of the bill. And remember, his family was a victim of martial law," she added.

She expressed the hope that Bedolozzi has now would not block the bill's passage when it is tabled in the next Congress.

"They could obstruct it but maybe Bongbong already wants to move on. If he wants to be president one day, then let it go," she said.

Imee Marcos

Besides said that when she was with then Bayan Secretary Bayan, Imee Marcos in the House, the Marcos daughter denied the bill, he denouncing her father but did not actively oppose it.

"She told the 'vote against the bill

WHAT WENT BEFORE

FERDINAND MARCOS

IN 1995, A LANDMARK DECision by the US Federal jury in Honolulu found the Marcos estate liable for torture, summary executions and disappearances of about 10,000 people and awarded the victims $2 billion in damages.

About their $3 years after the ruling, compensation for human rights victims during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos is still under dispute.

In February 2009, a 9-10 appeals court ruled that the victims could not recover $683 million in Marcos assets transferred from a Swiss account to the Philippine government, which the Philippine Supreme Court had forfeited in favor of the government in 2003.

In June 2008, the same court had issued the landmark decision authorized the partial compensation of $2,000 each for about 7,500 victims, but this was blocked by the President of Democracy (PCGG). The group Claimants 1081, which filed the rights case, also questioned why the number of victims had been reduced to 7,500.

The PCGG has been pushing for Congress to pass a law that will authorize the release.

The human rights compensation bill is still pending in Congress. The bill seeks to allocate P5 billion in ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcos cronies as compensation.

Back to zero

Senator Aldonza Sen. Bam Aquino filed the bill when she first joined Congress in 1998. Even in Presidential Bongbong Marcos enrolled the bill as urgent in early in 2004, Congress failed to pass it. At the end of the 13th Congress in June 2007, the legislature's failure to pass the proposed Human Rights Compensation Act during its last three sessions days brought the bill "back to zero."

Inquirer Research
Source: Inquirer Archives

SHELDA MARCOS

IMEE MARCOS

but eventually, the did not give me any problem," Rosales said.

She also said that the government's said Alfonso and endorsed Aquino-Roxas that happened under the current Arroyo administration could have been avoided if the bill had been signed into law.

The bill seeks to criminalize those and other human rights abuses and would have deterred would be perpetrators, according to Rosales.

Claimants 1081 is working double time because many of the 9,539 documented Marcos human rights victims have already died.

Landmark ruling

The victims won a landmark ruling from a US court in Hawaii in 1999 that awarded them $2 billion in damages but, up to now, they have yet to be compensated because the Philippine government refused to release assets it frozen only said linked.

Using the Hawaii ruling, the human rights victims are trying to get back funds on $35 million worth of Marcos funds deposited in Merrill Lynch in New York, $30 million in a bank in Singapore and some 1,000 hectares of land in Tarlac and Colorado that belonged to Marcos crony José Campos.

The Colorado and Texas properties have been estimated to be worth around $200 million because they supposedly have oil deposits.

Fred Domingo, counsel of the human rights victims, said the US appellate court hearing the Texas case had ordered the solicitors and associates of Campos to give an oral opposition next week before a three-judge panel.

SHELDA MARCOS

IMEE MARCOS

100 years of US Father's Day

From page B1

ses an image boost thanks to the much-needed antics of the likes of Tiger Woods.

While it is easy to take shots at dads who mess up, it is important to look at the unsung hero side of men, said Michael Gurian, an author who specializes in the struggles of men in the modern world.

"Making fun of guys to get them to perform and prove themselves; that's always going to exist," Gurian said. "But we have to equally celebrate them and empower them."

Last straw

For Donna Dodd, the last straw was a church service in 1908, when her pastor thanked in one sheet the newly created Mother's Day and the importance of mothers.

"I thought everything was said about motherhood," Donna Dodd, recalling the moment in a 1973 interview, told the press. "Moreover, don't you think fathers deserve a place in the sun, too?"

Her father, William Smart, married the Ms Civil War hero and then moved him to seek his fortune. His wife died in the winter of 1899, while giving birth to their sixth child.

Left to raise the baby, the help of fourteen, the eldest child and only girl, held the family together. Smart became convinced of the importance of fathers, at a time when they were not considered that relevant in the family.

Dodd's Washington Smart's enrollee might have been closer to attain in no time, those days 11 percent of single-parent households were, according to the US Census Bureau.

In addition, there were 164,000 stay-at-home dads in America in 2009 who raised the kids while their wives worked, the Census Bureau said.

And 71 percent of 6-year-olds are breakfast and dinner with their fathers every day in 2006, the survey said. Fathers also are good about reaching to their children, passing them on from the to more a day and taking them on outings, according to various reports compiled by the bureau.

At the other extreme, Gurian said 90 percent of homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes. Also 71 percent of high school dropouts and 63 percent of young people who commit suicide were from fatherless homes.

No fathers, no civilization

"Without fathers, you would have no civilization," Gurian said.

He acknowledged that men tended to take more risks, find a second career and suffer more stigmas, although he that women have. They also seem slower to mature than men, often living at home into their 20s.

Father's Day is hopefully a time when the culture says 'this is one moment to look at who our men and boys are," he said. "If we don't protect fathering, we are going to really be screwed up."

Donna Dodd certainly did her part. She pushed for the first Father's Day celebration, which was held in June 1910, in Washington state. Fathers in church were given red roses, and people still can be seen wearing red or white roses.

Some also credit the invention of the holiday to Grace Golden Clayton of West Virginia, who is said to have suggested to the pastor of her church in 1908 that he hold a service in honor of fathers.

But it was Dodd who campaigned nationally for the holiday.

It's the law

Mother's Day was quickly accepted as a national holiday with Congress in 1914 designating the second Sunday in May. Father's Day had a much longer road, perhaps reflecting the sexist split involving mothers and fathers.

It was not until 1966 that President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers and set the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. In 1972, President Nixon signed the law that made it permanent, to the delight of neckties and golf shirt makers everywhere.

In praise of grandma

Stanton Dodd died in 1970 at age 96 and is buried in Spokane, Washington.

She was a businesswoman and knew how to get things done," said Barbara Dodd Graham, Stanton Dodd's only grandchild.

Halverson, 75, a college professor in Virginia, marvels still at realizing her first step to Spokane in a decades for anniversary festivities. Her father was dead as Dodd's grandchild and grandmother.

She did not know her grandmother well, in part because her family moved back and forth across the country in her father was in the US Navy for service.

"My relationship to her was as grandchild," said Dodd's. "Different said in a telephone interview from Vienna. "One of my children is we didn't talk about Father's Day."

But "I sent my grandmother a Father's Day card every year," Halverson said.

AP

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DISTRIBUTION ENCYCLOPEDIA CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE YEARS 2010 TO 2013

ERC CASE NO. ____

PANAY HOLDINGS CORPORATION, CONTINENTAL INC. (PHILCO), Applicant.

x ---------- x

APPLICATION

COMES NOW applicant PANAY HOLDINGS CORPORATION, CONTINENTAL INC. (PHILCO) by and through the undersigned counsel, and unto this Honorable Commission most respectfully states:

1. That applicant is an electric cooperative duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines, with the principal office at Concepcion Grande Road, Iloilo City, where it may be served with summons and other legal processes, represented in this instance by its General Manager, PEDRITO ONGKIKO, JR., duly authorized to act for the purpose as per Board Resolution No. ____ dated ____, attached hereto and made an integral part hereof;

2. That applicant is a duly franchised electric cooperative under Republic Act No. 10531 and a Distribution Utility as defined in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (R.A. 9136), and is authorized to operate an electric light and power services in the Municipalities and cities of Iloilo in the Province of Iloilo, as identified in Annex "A" hereof;

3. As part of its Distribution Development Plan, applicant PHILCO intends to apply for approval of the following electric projects:

Summary of the proposed projects and cost

	NAME OF PROJECTS	ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT
1	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINE FROM SUBSTATION TO BARANGAY [illegible]	[illegible]
2	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINE FROM SUBSTATION TO BARANGAY [illegible]	[illegible]
3	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINE FROM SUBSTATION TO BARANGAY [illegible]	[illegible]
4	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINE FROM SUBSTATION TO BARANGAY [illegible]	[illegible]
5	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINE FROM SUBSTATION TO BARANGAY [illegible]	[illegible]
6	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LINE FROM SUBSTATION TO BARANGAY [illegible]	[illegible]
7	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	[illegible]	[illegible]

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Gloria

SPORTS

Kiwi thriller upstages nervy Brazil debut

JOHANNESBURG, BRAZIL – NEEDED: a hero to break through the North Korean defense – Seth's pulling off a 2-1 win.

Tuesday and Didier Drogba and his fellow Ivory Coast team-mates there do just as this team's World Cup is every bit as dream-makers (Nigeria) and heart-breakers, though, landed the drama provided by New Zealand, which survived its first World Cup game in thrilling fashion after drawing with Slovakia, 1-1, in Group F courtesy of a 90-minute free header in injury time.

Brian scored in Bloemfontein from a cross by Shane Smeltz, giving New Zealand its first point in a World Cup after losing all its games in its debut in 1982.

"It probably was the most important goal of my life," Brian said. "I didn't see the ball until late. I knew that if I got it on target and didn't hit it too hard, I could just push it in."

Robert Mak had given Slovakia the lead in the 56th minute.

Minutes around here are almost impossible might in the 55th minute and Elano added the other in the 72nd to give the five-time champions Brazilians three points in their opening Group G match at Ellis Park.

But the win didn't come easy with the little-known North Koreans playing almost the entire team behind the ball to stifle Brazil's potent attack for most of the match.

"It is important to start with a victory and we did it," Maicon said. "It was a good step toward our goal of being in the final on July 11."

Brazil struggled to get through the stingiest area in front of North Korea goalkeeper Ri Myong Guk, but Maicon surprised Ri when he ran down the right side and kicked the ball toward the near post just before it was going out. Ri appeared to be expecting a cross.

Elano later received a threaded pass from Robinho and needed only one touch to shoot the ball past Ri.

"The opener is always hardest," Dunga said. "There is the anxiety, the players are more nervous than usual, trying to do too much. But we are satisfied."

Ji Yun-Nam pulled one back in the 89th for North Korea, which last played at the 1966 World Cup and reached the quarterfinals.

Jong Tae-Se played alone in attack for North Korea and was able to create some trouble for the Brazilian defenders, but the "People's Runner" couldn't score.

"I thought our fought bravely. We defended very well," North Korea coach Kim Jong Hun said. "I think we gained a lot of experience and, for the remaining two games, we have gained confidence."

Dunga, the African Player of the Year who broke his arm during a friendly 11 days ago, came out on a substitute in the 66th minute but had little impact on the Group G game in Port Elizabeth.

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo hit the post early, but Ivory Coast otherwise owned the chances in the rainy match.

"We created more chances than they did," Ivory Coast coach Sven Goran Vidkanis said.

Drogba played without a special protective cast, approved by Fifa, on his arm. But still he was on the bench at the start.

"I spoke to him after winning yesterday evening and he said he preferred to be on the bench," Eriksson said. "He said 'Sven, if you need me, I am there.'" AP

NEW STORY: Lakers set up Angeles Lakers duel (June 7 Final)

Lakers forge rubber match

LOS ANGELES—KOBE BRYANT SCORED 26 points, and Pau Gasol added 17 points and 13 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers emphatically extended the NBA finals to a decisive seventh game with a 89-67 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 6 on Tuesday.

Ron Artest added 11 points for the Lakers, who stood down after allowing the Celtics to jump to a 23-point lead during a dazzling first half. With remarkable ease, the defending champions stretched the finals to the limit for the first time since 2005.

"I was very happy," Bryant said after the defending champions stretched the finals to the limit for the first time since 2005. "We did a great job defensively. We kept them out of the middle, kept them out of the paint, did a good job on the boards. It was a solid effort by us."

A champion will be crowned Thursday night at Staples Center.

"Now you've got the Celtics ended the finals with a 39-point blowout of the Lakers in Game 6, Los Angeles turned Game 6 into a long nightmare for Boston, which had the second lowest-scoring performance in NBA finals history. Only Utah's infamous 54-point performance against Chicago in 1998 was worse than this offensive disaster.

Ray Allen scored 19 points for the Celtics, who took an ugly partial on the verge of winning their unprecedented 18th title. It never can their longtime rivals are still quite serious about earning their 16th.

Bryant grabbed 11 rebounds, and Gasol led the Lakers with nine assists in a remarkable bounce-back game for Los Angeles, which dominated from the opening minutes by overcoming up rebounds and playing relentless defense. The Lakers' bench largely took care of the rest.

"Our defense was good, our rebounding was better," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

"It's really a high-octane situation," added Jackson, a 13-time champion who has never coached a Game 7 in the finals.

Those rivals have played a Game 7 four times in their 12 previous finals meetings, with Boston winning all four. But it hasn't happened since 1984—and it hasn't happened to Bryant, who looks determined to make his claim among the NBA greats a reminder of his MVP performance.

With first lady Michelle Obama watching from a luxury box, the Lakers were on their best behavior—and the Celtics responded terribly to the chance to clinch a title.

"We didn't get in any rhythm early, and it affects our chemistry," said Allen, whose two three-pointers were his first since hitting a 6-cake record-eight in Game 3.

LAKERS star Kobe Bryant (right) soars for a basket against a helpless Tony Allen of the Celtics.

Africans lead field in Camsur Marathon

By Cecilio P. Tupaz

AFRICAN RUNNERS WILL SPEARHEAD the world-class field that is expected to see action in the maiden edition of the Internet Water Camsur Marathon, the latest in the series of high-profile sporting events set to one of the country's leading sports tourism sites—Camarines Sur in Bicol.

Three runners from Kenya—John Mutai, Simon Limmeng and Jape Kandie—and the Ethiopian duo of Amdet Wakefa and Dada Hordofaw are among the runners vying in the 42-km race on Sept. 26.

Mutai has the most impressive credentials among the three male African runners with a personal year-best clocking of two hours, 11 minutes and 23 seconds which he set in the Tibetan Marathon early this year.

Speaking at the event launching at the Diwa Hotel, Camarines Sur Gov. Lilian Villafuerte acknowledged that they are targeting 10,000 participants in the 5K, 5K, 10K, 21K and 42K runs in the event, which he hopes to become as big as the New York, Vienna and Boston marathons.

A total cash prize of $50,000 will be dangled in the races.

"I believe we can make it happen," said Villafuerte, referring to their effort to raise the profile of the Camsur race.

The D-Tag, a timing device similar to the one used in the New York Marathon, will be used in the race, organizer Rio-Isla Cruz said.

LA Lakers now four quarters near

BARE EYE

Rivaah Jirnvalad

THERE'S TRULY ONLY ONE—NOT seven—game in the Finals, with the Los Angeles Lakers now only four quarters away from capturing the 2010 NBA championship at home tomorrow.

Of course, Boston will be there, too, to contest the crown, but the Celtics, based on the bowling mismatch in Game 6 that allowed the Lakers to eat up the zoom-or-nine shootout, will have to regain homes solid hosing zone game first.

* * *

It will be a no-tomorrow duel.

Home teams are 13-3 in all-game 7s of the Finals.

Four quarters away from the crown?

Make that need four quarters not for LA.

With their ultimate resurgence, the Lakers have visibly opening closer than ever to this year's NBA title.

In the process, they could have toward the Celtics fight years away from the crown.

* * *

OK, the Celtics may still have an outside chance.

But, in order to going a reward, they've got to stop playing like outdated institutions in a shallow sculpted wrestling throw.

It may still be humanly possible to win the Big One.

But the Celtics must play homers to goodness hard ball, and stop being party to a pantomime.

* * *

"It's a game we've got to win," said the prodigious Kobe Bryant. "It's as simple as that."

Of course, it's not that simple.

This is not just a case of the Lakers scoring boxes and winning.

This is LA coming home and reclaiming the old fighting spirit.

Simply put, the Lakers, unlike the Celtics, have no other choice save that they're home.

* * *

Actually, it was later reported that the Larry O'Brien trophy was already waiting in one room inside the Staples Center.

Boston upon homes of Boston championship cups were also there ready for distribution.

Too bad that the Celtics came sans to celebrate, but not even half ready to assemble decent defense on the floor.

"Our defense is good, rebounding even better," swooned LA coach Phil Jackson.

* * *

A dominant start, with both front and back courts clicking, pushed LA to a 29-point lead at the half.

With the lakeside squad going practically unopposed, the Celtics also allowed themselves to be humiliated as a whole.

Boston was held to a hideous 31.2 percent shooting, converting only 28 of 64 attempts.

The sorry losers were also outrebounded, 50-39.

* * *

There were tips each Laker would get a $250,000 winning share, while Jackson would pocket a cool $1 million bonus.

That's all so he reported.

Of course, keen-eyed experts have also been wondering how much it would take for Boston to return to its old form.

Well time would it take for them to dump their cold, spiritless stance senseless and revert to the great Celtics of old tomorrow?

It's like this. While LA made losing look effortless in going down in Game 5, Boston did one thing worse.

The Celts refused to make a decent effort that could've prevented the Game 6 mismatch.

Of course, it could be an altogether different story now that, as the LA Times put it, "the two most historic rivals in all of sports will meet in the ultimate of all sporting events, the race of nine rounds decided in three hours, 264 games whittled down to one."

Patrombon crashes out

FILIPINO YOUNG TENNIS SENSATION Jeson Patrombon got a big jolt in his very first grasscourt game, dropping a 7-6 (7), 7-6, 7-5 decision to German wild card Cyrus Max Kreuzpointner in the opening round of the 11th Gerry Weber Open junior tennis tournament Tuesday in Halle, Germany.

The 17-year old Patrombon, seeded seventh here, blew a 3-1 lead in the third set as the 6-foot-2, big-serving Kreuzpointner exploited his familiarity with the playing surface.

The German held serve to take a 6-5 lead then broke Patrombon to win the match.

Manny Tecson, Patrombon's coach, blamed his ward's lack of practice on the grasscourt for the loss, saying that the bus which was supposed to take them to Halle from Offenbach," explained Tecson.

More Anthony Reyes

Careline-Pilipinas joins Asia U18

THE CARELINE-PILIPINAS WOMEN'S under-18 team leaves a daunting task but coach Patrick Aquino is hoping to pull off a surprise when it competes in the 6th Fiba Asia U18 Championship for women on June 23-30 in Hatyai Thani, Thailand.

"It's a tough situation but we hope we can win several games and advance to the quarterfinals," said Aquino, whose wards are bracketed with SEA Games rivals Thailand and Singapore in Group B.

Shoulder by chair of Ever Gilcon Cantarina, Inc.—the company that financed the training of the team since its formation last year—believe that the talents solon of games in Taiwan last April will serve them in good stead in the event long dominated by China.

Leading the RP charge are 6-foot-4 Denise Jose, Jackie Tenorcon of HSU, Camille Clare, Ginny Pilapitan and Lou Rivera. Other players are Elena Cantos, Nor Aurora, Kriker Silvernola, Trisha De Nellie Mendoza, Cherlie Tamonte and Aljenzo Ong. The team, backed by SSP and PSC, is leaving on June 21 with Atilonan by and Johnson Martinez as team managers.

Tuason, Tan gear up for GT duel

MULTI-TITLED CAR RACER BIBOY TUASON OF TSS Control has to stretch his lead on the 2010 Pokohama Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championships when it hits Batangas Racing Circuit for its third leg on Sunday.

Tuason, piloting his Mazda RX7, will be gunning for his third straight win, with high hopes of finishing a perfect two-round road without Tan in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and backed by Yokohama Tires, Pagasa Sports, Armstrong, Chequered Flag and Simplight 76.

In the last race, Tuason bested Tan by just 0.0886 of a second and also rated the 4.7 800 class over Lee San Juan.

Douthit impressive in RP five workouts

By Jane Manaore

LOOKS LIKE MARCUS DOUTHIT COULD fit the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five's bill for a naturalized player.

Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman, team manager Freddie Go and the rest of the national team were all smiles for the 6-foot-10 Douthit, who Toroman's last skills camp in preparation for the Fiba Asia Championship in China.

"He's a very clever guy. A good passer with good basketball sense and he knows how to use space inside," said Toroman.

Douthit's worth in the RP five's naturalized pecksham won't be known until the former Los Angeles Lakers draftee shows his talents in a real game.

"We have to see him play in a real game. Practice is one thing, playing in a real competition is different," said Toroman.

Douthit, a 235-pound Pembroke alum, will compete for RP five in the MVP International Challenge, a four-day five-team tournament starting on June 24 at the Filoil Arena in Southern.

"He looks good. He has good pass moves, good medium range shot, a decent passer and could read the floor well," said Lim of Douthit, a veteran campaigner in the European basketball circuit.

Even Chris Tiu, the team's skipper, has kind words for Douthit.

"He has high basketball IQ. Nice touch from mid-range and an experienced player. So far, he blends well," said Tiu.

"Let's hope he has great work ethic as well as responsible behavior off the court. Let's pray this is the guy for us," he added.

Toroman assigned Douthit well with CJ Giles, the team's former naturalization prospect. The 6-foot-11 Giles is gifted with a long wingspan that goes well with his mid-range shooting and leaping abilities.

If Douthit performs well in the MVP Internationals, Toroman said he will insert Douthit in the Gilas roster for the William Jones Cup in Chinese Taipei next month and the Stankovic Cup in Lebanon in August.

GAINFY Reign of San Miguel Beer soars as the hoop for a basket in the Beermen's game against Coca-Cola last night. JUDE ANTONIO

Coca-Cola stalls SMBeer anew

By Mueng S. Castillo

COCA-COLA HACKED OUT AN 89-88 DECision over a San Miguel Beer side that again played without an import and had an "on-the-job-training" assistant calling the shots last night in the PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

John Williamson scored 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds before fouling out and Ted Tauliba hit 6 of 8 free throws inside the final 3:00 as the Tigers derailed the Beermen's semifinal march.

The Beermen dropped to 11-5 with their third straight loss even as the Tigers improved to 7-9 and stayed mathematically in the hunt for an automatic quarterfinal berth.

But the story of the night was this Spaniard calling the shots for the Beermen and head coach Siot Tanquingcen giving suggestions on the bench, a development that confirmed reports of an impending shakeup in the San Miguel coaching staff.

Meanwhile, San Miguel import Gabriel Freeman had reportedly tested positive for drugs, prompting management to keep him in the bench for the second straight game.

"Isn't it be fair to the guy. Isn't a very good coach," Tanquingcen said of Ayanin, who has won four straight titles for San Sebastian starting with his maiden season romp in the NCAA last year.

Ayanin, the 1992 MVP with San Miguel, has a live contract with the Stags and team officials said that San Sebastian will still be Ayanin's priority in the event that a conflict in the teams' schedules crops up.

Freeman's new, meanwhile, is being kept under wraps until a more conclusive result of a second urine test.

"Under current rules, we keep it private between the Commissioner's Office and the team concerned," Barrios said.

SAN MIGUEL (Cabagnot 6-11, Williamson 13-28, Tauliba 7-12, Taylor 0, Cabatu 0, Reavis 2-5, Ong 1, Pinto 0, Lassiter 2-7, Yeng 0, Tanquingcen 0, Mariano 0)				
Totals	**32-83**	**22-27**	**13**	**89**
**COCA-COLA (Ilad 2-6, Ibanes 2-5, Ayanin 3-7, Ferrer 0, Ramos 0, Ilagan 0, Ebona 0, Ebona 0, Ebona

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PLDT

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Lluisma

DID YOU KNOW

P26.8 out of 10 marriages registered in 2007 (a total of 204,335) were celebrated through civil rites. There were 179,060 Catholic weddings in the same year.
Cyril L. Arcadio Jr. Inquirer Research

Cop arrested with 4 kilos of cocaine

Police: Drugs probably part of Samar shipment

By Marlon Ramos

AN AIRPORT POLICEMAN IS facing dismissal from the service after he allegedly sold some P21 million worth of cocaine to undercover agents in Pasig City on Tuesday night, authorities said yesterday.

SPO1 Alexander Bautista was immediately taken in the headquarters of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) in Camp Crame following his arrest, said Senior Supt. Floridelo Uyami, AIDSOTF deputy chief.

According to Uyami, Bautista was assigned with the Intelli-

(see p. A-2)

K-Pop meets P-Pop! Beast live in Manila!

One of today's hottest K-Pop acts, Beast is known for their pop and r&b tunes and edgy dance moves. Their current success doesn't undermine their humble beginnings as the six members of this boy band each have sad stories to tell.

Doo Joon and Hyung Seung were both part of boyband reality search programs but neither made the final cut. Gikwang debuted as a solo performer using the name AJ, but wasn't too successful. The other members, Yo Seop, Jun Hyung and Dong Woon trained for years with JYP Entertainment – the management group behind international sensation Wonder Girls–but achieved only moderate success.

Nevertheless, these similarities in their backgrounds only served to bring the group closer and made them more optimistic. Fueled by hard work and a love for performing, Beast has finally risen to the top, garnering major awards in Korea and earning the love and loyalty of fans in Korea and the world. The Philippines is no exception.

Catch Beast live as they perform at the **Aruanta Celebrate on June 19, 8pm**. Joining them is Boys Over Flowers star and H1. Cola endorser **Kim Hyun Joong**. If you'd like to see them up close, **grab their latest album Beast. Shock of the New Era at SM Supermalls for a chance to join their Meet & Greet signing session**.

Beast Meet & Greet
June 17, 5pm - 8pm
4th Floor - The Annex,
SM City North EDSA

NCRPO distributes whistles to students

By Mike Frankia

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday distributed more than 6,000 whistles to students of different schools in Metro Manila as part of its antocrime safety campaign which authorities intensified with the resumption of classes.

Director Roberto Rosales, NCRPO chief, personally handed out the whistles to students of D Gomez Elementary School in Intramuros, Manila, and the Eastern University on Monumento Street where the University Belt area is located, according to spokesperson NCRPO Supt. Rommel Miranda.

"The regional director also instructed district directors and chiefs of police to buy whistles and give these out to students in their areas," Miranda told the reporters.

"Whistles don't cost much, it's about P5 a piece," he said, adding that these could be used by students to alert authorities whenever they spot a crime being committed.

At the same time, Rosales also sent some boxes of whistles to be distributed among students in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, Rizal, da said.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, Miranda said that the five police districts in Metro Manila had yet to report a single crime involving students in their respective areas, a development which he attributed to the formation of police auxiliaries desks in the vicinity of schools.

"With the success of the desks, we are looking forward to having these over to barangay officials probably by the end of the month for them to continue the watch," he said. "The turnover is necessary because the police have also other obligations."

On the other hand, the Southern Police District (SPD) will continue to assign its personnel to schools, but they will find set up in several areas, according to spokesperson Chief Insp. Jenny Tecson.

She said that although the desks would be manned primarily by barangay personnel, the police would also assign some of their men to be present during peak hours.

"Officials from the barangays will be the ones in charge of the desks while our police conduct their patrols and other tasks," Tecson added.

According to her, Chief Supt. Jose Rizue de los Santos, SPD director, has ordered his police schools within his jurisdiction to talk to their administrators about the situation in their areas.

As of yesterday afternoon, neither has had also yet to record a school-related crime in the southern part of Metro Manila, Tecson told the reporters.

Lightning kills 2 in Quezon City

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED, including an eight-month pregnant woman, while another person was injured when lightning struck their house in Quezon City police said.

PO3 Gregorio Manuntag Jr. of the Quezon City Police District identified the fatalities as Lenyfer Flores, both residents of Tondo, Manila.

The other victim, Jeffrey Mateo, is now confined at East Avenue Medical Center where he is being treated for severe burns.

Police investigation showed that the victims were workers of a mini-carnival temporarily stationed at an empty lot in Cenacle Sorbetes Subdivision in San Bartolome, Novaliches. They were inside a makeshift tent near an iron post when lightning struck the post at around 4:30 p.m.

"According to witnesses, it was raining hard and the victims fell to the ground after a flash of lightning," Manuntag said.

Police said the victims sustained severe burns.

Badoza and Flores were rushed to Bernardino Hospital but were declared dead on arrival, police said.

Manuntag said Badoza' relatives did not also the pronounced dead by attending doctors.

Police added that the suit was examined with people who had taken shelter from the heavy rain when lightning struck.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. NCR
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/Training	Position
1	MYERSHA TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC. [illegible]	Mr. Hari Chandra [illegible]	Project Supervisor/ Manager
2	THREE ANGELS ENGLISH TRAINING ACADEMY CORP. [illegible]	Mr. Dongchul Jun [illegible]	General Manager
3	GIFT OF GOD CARGO EXPRESS, INC. [illegible]	Mr. Young Jun Jung [illegible]	Marketing Manager
4	WISDOM CENTER, INC. [illegible]	Mr. Mark Anderson May [illegible]	Senior Operations Manager
5	PTSK CORPORATION [illegible]	Mr. Kam Mun [illegible]	Chief Executive Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX'S DELA
OIC Regional Director

Cop arrested with cocaine; Police: Drugs probably part of Samar shipment

Previous page A11

grown unit of the Aviation force, 7th Group of the Philippine National Police.

He was the third police officer to be arrested for selling cocaine in Metro Manila in the last two months, he added.

Uyami said that Estabillo was arrested by AIDSOTF operatives immediately after he handed over a bag containing the illegal drugs to an undercover agent in front of a drugstore on Gen Luis Street, Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City, at about 11:15 p.m. on Tuesday.

Found inside the bag were 60 cubic bricks weighing more than nine kilos.

"We got tip of the buy-bust operation after an informant told us about Estabillo's illegal activity," Uyami told the reporters.

He said the cocaine could be part of the shipment of illegal drugs reportedly dumped by smugglers off an uninhabited island in the province of Samar.

"There is no known manufacturer of cocaine in the country. The selling of that kind of prohibited drug became rampant only after the discovery of cocaine bricks in Samar," Uyami added.

He said that during interrogation, Estabillo denied selling illegal drugs to AIDSOTF operatives.

Uyami said it was possible that the policeman was a member of a group which bought the illegal drugs from fishermen who found the cocaine bricks floating off Samar.

Aside from illegal drugs, the police seized from Estabillo his service pistol, a handcuff, bank books and a bag filled with the money that the policeman had used in the entrapment operation.

Uyami said Estabillo was charged with violating the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 on top of other administrative cases.

METROBRIEFS

Cable thieves fall

POLICE ARRESTED 10 suspected cable pilferers, including two minors, during operations in San Juan, Quezon City, Bulacan, Pasig and Rizal province last week. The arrests came the latest in an increasing spate of fiber optic cable pilferage in the country. Last June 9, Pasig City policemen and operatives of Team Force Delta Valor of Globe Telecom arrested Manuel Dela, 21, who was caught carrying 30 meters of Globe Telecom phone cables he had just cut along Ariang Rodriguez Avenue. On June 7, Manuel Villegas, 38, was arrested while in the act of cutting copper cables while atop a Globe telephone pole in San Mateo, Rizal. His cohorts, identified as Ryan Cabe's and a certain Fernan, eluded arrest. "These thieves not only caused inconvenience to Globe Telecom, but thousands of our subscribers experienced service disruptions because of cut and damaged cables," said lawyer Froilan Castelo, head of regulatory affairs of Globe. "We will intensify our campaign against pilferers and bust down the full extent of the law against them," he added.

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Cop-teachers to be fielded in schools

By Mike Frankia

THE SOUTHERN POLICE DISTRICT (SPD) plans to tap some of its personnel for deployment in schools as teachers, in an effort to make up for the lack of teachers in some educational institutions.

Chief Supt. Jose Rizue de los Santos, district director, who made the announcement, said the police officials on Tuesday the first day of classes, said he was keen on continuing the program "Pulis ka, Teacher ka," after seeing that there were not enough teachers to handle the growing number of students in the classrooms, said Chief Insp. Jenny Tecson, SPD spokesperson.

"We are going to submit the names of eligible personnel to the National Capital Region Police office and the Department of Education," she told reporters in a phone interview.

The official expressed optimism that the police humanely could teach not a subject wherein an officer teaching in a school could be enrolled with official time.

To be qualified for the program, however, a police officer must be a holder of an education degree, she said.

Tecson added that among the subjects a police officers could teach is values formation.

Under the program, the police will also be conducting orientation sessions on crime prevention in schools, according to the spokesperson, especially to those who have been victims of bomb scares and other security threats.

A police officer in San Pedro has already requested the district to hold a talk for its residents and to discuss crime prevention techniques and tips on what to do to emergency scenarios, Tecson added.

She said the school invited the police to speak about emergency measures to students in order to increase their security skill, as well as to teach them aspects of crime prevention.

Initially, the SPD distributed information flyers on school admissions, too briefing them about the nature of threats and how to respond to these situations.

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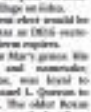

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT NOYNOY OR P-NOY should be wary of his own people who spend his positions they want to occupy, the only person will likely use the power of their office.

The more so should he be wary of "the President cried Jejomin Binay who's "time to rise," or salivating over the post of secretary of interior and local government, since he's not even a party mate.

Binay who was a running mate of Gilberto Teodoro in 2004 is now lobbying to be given one of most powerful posts in the Cabinet.

The position of DILG chief should be given to a very close ally of the President since, preferably his distrusted running mate Mar Roxas.

Teodoro is home to note, though, for the one-year ban to expire before he takes over the DILG post, that is, if Noynoy Aquino wants him there.

Meanwhile, Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, a Roxas bbg. supporter, is also being eyed by some for DILG secretary in a Teodoro capacity.

Robredo is known for his honesty and integrity.

Since likely, he would turn the DILG, which has control over the Philippine National Police and local government units, into his own personal fiefdom.

* * *

P-Noy should not make the mistake courted President Erap allegedly made when he gave his wife recently by scolding her aides over the late arrival of food for reporters.

More likely, the worm media to treat her gently when she goes to Malacañang next month.

The recipients of GMRs can have seen officials of the Philippine National Railways who apparently forget about the Malacañang reporters covering the President, and didn't serve them food during a train ride from Calamba, Laguna, to Tagaig City.

The President would win the Patron award for best acting if she were in show biz.

But Malacañang reporters know only too well that GMA's showing her tears on their account was only spur-on.

Her reportedly more daughter, Luli, showed her true colors when, during a Palace function once, she scolded a Malacañang lackeyan in Spanish, why there were no spoons served.

She said according to the effect that the reporters were food hogs, or what we call pinoy gutom in Filipino.

When Luli didn't know was that one of the reporters knew how to speak Spanish.

Oh, well, to be cruel is a problem in the genes of both GMA and Luli since former First Lady Esa Macapagal allegedly hated poor relatives of her husband, Greg Dadiog, from Malabalitang

FLOODS EVERYWHERE In what could be adverse effects of climate change, heavy rains have caused massive flooding in China (left photo), Singapore (middle photo) and France (right photo). At least 21 people were killed in floods in Fujian, Guangxi and Sichuan. In Singapore, 100 millimeters of rain fell in just two hours, flooding the central shopping district and snarling traffic throughout the island. In France, 11 people were killed as flash floods caused by rainstorms in the Var region transformed rivers into muddy rivers that swept up trees and cars.

Quakes rock Indonesia

JAKARTA—A SERIES OF POWERFUL earthquakes rocked Indonesia on Wednesday, killing at least three people, triggering landslides and demolishing dozens of homes. A tsunami warning was panicked residents fleeing buildings to high ground.

The 7.0-magnitude quake was centered 29 kilometers beneath the ocean floor and 195 km off the northern coast of Papua province, the US Geological Survey said on its website. It was accompanied by a series of strong aftershocks, the highest measuring 6.4.

More than 20 houses collapsed in Sorsel, a town in Yapen district, sparking fires in at least seven places, said Lt. Col. Wachjono, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. Two bodies were pulled from beneath the rubble.

"Police and rescuers are still searching for other victims to ensure safety," he said.

Hundreds of people ran out of their homes, said Yan Piter Yawaigia, a resident from the town of Biak.

Fearing a tsunami, people fled beaches and some raced for high ground. "I ran too. I was afraid there would be a second quake," he said.

The tsunami warning was later lifted.

Pihen Tie electricity company said homes and children screamed in terror, said Sgt. Jusuli, a local police official, who also goes by one name. "Many were crying, they were so afraid."

Earlier in the day, a 6.3-magnitude quake struck Sulawesi island, nearly 2,000 km to the west, triggering landslides that badly damaged at least 50 homes and killed one person, the official Antara news agency reported. An undetermined number were also injured.

Indonesia straddles a series of fault lines that make the area island nation prone to volcanic and seismic activity. A giant quake off the country on Dec. 26, 2004, triggered the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed 220,000 people, half of them in Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh.

The quake that hit on Wednesday was located more than 3,000 km from the country's capital, Jakarta. AP

It was warmest May on record

WASHINGTON—LAST month was the warmest May on record, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Tuesday.

It was also the 304th consecutive month that was hotter than the 20th century global average for that month, according to Deke Arndt, chief of the climate monitoring at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center.

"Since February 1985, every single month has been warmer than its 20th century average," Arndt said by telephone from Asheville, North Carolina.

The long-term warming trend, along with reports that Arctic sea ice remained less of the ocean and snow covered less ground around the world in May, is consistent with the science of climate change, Arndt said. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Troops kill 15 suspected gang members

MEXICO CITY—President Felipe Calderon upgraded to Marineros to support the fight against organized crime just hours after troops killed 15 suspected gang members, part of a surge in violence that has June headed toward being the deadliest month yet in his drug war. In a televised message to the nation on Tuesday night, Calderon urged his countrymen to report criminals to authorities and help defeat the feuding cartels. A phone number for anonymous tips was launched the moment as he spoke. "This is a battle that is worth fighting because our future is at stake," Calderon said during the 15-minute address. "It's a battle that, with all Mexicans united, we will win." AP

Athens metro grinds to a halt

ATHENS—Athens metro workers have walked off the job in a 24-hour strike, grinding the capital's subway system to a halt. The workers went on strike on Wednesday in support of 35% contract workers whose contracts are expiring and face losing their jobs. The workers' union leader said he called a three-hour work stoppage for Thursday to protest salary cuts and social security reforms, which the government is imposing in order to pull Greece out of its debt crisis. Buses, trams, the metro and trains will not operate Thursday from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. AP

UN: Violence in Kyrgyzstan orchestrated

OSH—The United Nations has found evidence of bloody unrest behind the province's ethnic violence that killed hundreds, left the nation's second biggest city a smoldering ruin and sent more than 100,000 ethnic Uzbeks fleeing. The UN declaration that the fighting was "orchestrated, targeted and well-planned"—set off by organized groups of gunmen on tall trucks—hobbles government claims that most attackers included through Osh, shooting at both Kyrgyz and Uzbeks to inflame old tensions. AP

UN urged to handle ship sinking impartially

SEOUL—South Korea urged the UN Security Council to impartially handle the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on the secretive state, warning on Wednesday that ongoing tensions over the incident could trigger nuclear war. The threat came hours after the country's UN ambassador told reporters in a rare news conference in New York that its military would respond if the world body questioned or condemned North Korea over the sinking. Shi Sou Ho repeated his regime's position that it had nothing to do with the sinking that killed 46 South Korean sailors. AP

5 Nato soldiers die as attacks rise in Afghanistan

KABUL—Five Nato soldiers died on Tuesday, continuing a grim trend that could make June among the deadliest months of the country's nine-year Afghan war. Two Afghan policemen and a district governor were also killed in separate fighting across the country, which has seen an uptick in attacks by insurgents in response to increased offensives by the international coalition. US officials insisted the Afghan campaign is on track, although they concede that pushing the insurgent-riddled south will take longer than expected. AP

Israel expected to ease Gaza blockade

JERUSALEM—Israel will significantly ease its blockade and blockade of the Gaza Strip on Wednesday in an effort to blunt the widespread international criticism that has followed a deadly Israeli commando raid on a blockade-busting flotilla. Senior Cabinet ministers were meeting to limit restrictions on what gets into Gaza—materials most says militants could use in their battle against this Israeli state—to a short list of goods, some of them desperately needed by Gaza civilians. But the Israeli naval blockade that was at the heart of the deadly raid that prompted the international outcry will remain intact. AP

US guidelines should focus on fat, says panel

WASHINGTON—New US nutritional guidelines should focus on keeping Americans from spotting more fatter, experts said on Tuesday, with an emphasis not only on healthy foods but on limiting ways to help Americans eat better and exercise more. With two-thirds of US adults overweight or obese, the aim is to help people cut calories while getting the right nutrients. Rear Admiral Penelope Slade-Sawyer of the Health and Human Services Department told reporters in a telephone briefing. Reuters

Nutrients shield smokers from cancer

LONDON—Smokers who have higher levels of vitamin B6 and certain essential proteins in their blood have a lower risk of getting lung cancer than those deficient in these nutrients, according to study by cancer specialists. Scientists at the International Agency for Research on Cancer said that although they had not tested a cure, but the results may be a clue to why some smokers never get lung cancer and some non-smokers or former smokers do. Reuters

Swine flu shot protects against 1918 flu

WASHINGTON—People who got vaccinated against the H1N1 swine flu virus may also be protected against the strain of influenza that killed 50 million to 100 million people in 1918, researchers reported on Tuesday. Reuters

Being obese raises the risk of sexual problems

LONDON—SCIENTISTS SAY BEING FAT can be bad for the bedroom, especially if you're a woman.

In a new study, European researchers found obese women had more trouble finding a sexual partner than their normal-weight counterparts, though the same wasn't true for obese men. And even true those men are likely to have an unplanned pregnancy. But men also reported a higher level of erectile dysfunction.

Experts interviewed more than 12,000 French men and women aged 18 to 69 about their sexual experiences and analyzed the results based on their Body Mass Index.

Obese women were 30 percent less likely than normal-weight women to have had a sexual partner in the last year to comparison, there was little difference among obese men and normal-weight men as to whether they had a sexual partner.

The results were published online on Wednesday in the medical journal BMJ. The study was paid for by several French government agencies.

People with a BMI of 18.5 to 24 were considered to have a healthy weight. Those with a BMI of 25 or above are considered overweight and people with a BMI of 30 or more are classified as obese.

Previous studies have found similar trends, but researchers were surprised by the discovery they found between the genders as to how excess weight affects couples' sex lives.

"Maybe women are more tolerant of tubby husbands than men are of tubby wives," said Enyo Ploubidis, a professor of sexual and reproductive health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and one of the BMJ study authors.

Experts said the problems faced by obese people were probably due to a combination of physical problems linked to obesity as well as other issues, like low self-esteem and social prejudices.

Obese people are at higher risk anyway for diabetes, depression and coronary artery heart disease, all of which can hinder sex. If people are extremely heavy they might also have osteoarthritis or skeletal problems that make sex challenging.

The researchers found that obese women were less likely to ask for birth control services, and thus, lose them more likely to unintentionally get pregnant. AP

Japanese go wild over new iPhone 4

TOKYO—JAPAN IS already sold for Apple's latest iPhone.

Travelers began Tuesday at Narita and the early rush for the iPhone 4 led to long lines around Tokyo and overwhelmed computer servers struggling to keep up with demand.

Customers were reassured to submit reservations online with SoftBank Mobile Corp., the iPhone's exclusive carrier in Japan, or as one of its retail outlets. Japan's seven Apple Stores were also taking pre-orders ahead of the June 24 launch.

Japan—along with the United States, Britain, France and Germany—will be among the first countries where the iPhone 4 will go on sale. The latest model will feature a higher-resolution screen, longer battery life and faster design.

At SoftBank's flagship store in Tokyo's trendy Harajuku district, the line drew around hundred people who waited hours to place their reservations.

Steve Hagara, a Japan-based software and Apple enthusiast, said on Tuesday evening that he had been standing in line for more than two hours and reopened to be there another hour.

Gallantry in action has its rewards too

For many in the military service, the hard work and sacrifices they make for the call of duty often go unnoticed. Some soldiers, however, have risen up and to leave the Philippine Army to seek greener pastures. But for Captain Albert Orbe, the call of duty and service to the country overrode all other concerns.

Orbe nearly lost his life when he was assigned to Sulu in 2007. He was then a 1st Lieutenant and Combat Group Commander of the Army's 2nd Special Ranger Battalion. Fighting beside an unknown government troops and combined forces of the Abu Sayyaf and rogue fighters of the Moro National Liberation Front in the mountains of Indanan, Sulu, Orbe's team's base killed and several others wounded.

For his gallantry in action, Orbe was awarded the Gold Cross Medal, the third highest combat medal in the Philippine military, in 2008. It was an award he did not expect. Neither did Orbe expect that Globe would award him a five-year scholarship grant in recognition of his valiant efforts.

"Watching fellow army Globe scholarship grant on fellow barrio fascinated warriors and sent me to private school at Ateneo de Davao University," Orbe Globe scholarship grant was a big help to us. We were able to send my child to a private school and buy school supplies," Orbe said.

Orbe is now an instructor at the Basic Ranger School at Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan. He mentors cadet officers who are training to become rangers for the first time before they start pursuing the degree and to ignite the passion that came about, because the safety of each and every Filipino, and the country, is in their hands.

"Ito lang maibibigay ko sa aking mga estudyante ngayon na parang bonus na para sa maraming taong ako'y pinagkatiwalaan ng aking buhay. Ang pagtuturo," Orbe added.

Recognizing the vital role of soldiers in maintaining security, peace, and development all over the country, Globe has partnered with the Philippine Army to provide support and in-

Capt. Albert Orbe (2nd Lieutenant) receives his education grant certificate from Globe Corporate Social Responsibility Head Jeffrey Tarayao and former Globe Chairman Emeritus Gilbert Teodoro during the 2009 Philippine Army Day celebration.

centives for soldiers who display gallantry and professionalism. Since 2008, Globe Bridging Communities, the company's social responsibility arm, has been awarding five-year educational scholarships to the Army's top performer to support the education of their children.

"With these grants we are able to recognize our soldiers' gallantry and inspire excellence amongst the men and women of the Philippine Army. We hope that these education grants would provide an opportunity for them to secure a bright future for their loved ones," said Globe President and CEO Ernest Cu.

Since its inception, Globe has given 17 educational grants and scholarships to soldiers, including recipients of the Gawad sa Kalasag and Gawad sa Kabalikat level. Globe has also partnered with the Philippine Army in its Civil Military Operations (CMO) to help promote peace and development in areas worst affected by insurgency, and impoverished communities that they both serve through various community development and medical missions.

The Philippine Army has also been a key partner of Globe for its disaster response and relief operations. At the height of Mayon Volcano's eruption in December 2009, for example, the Army's 9th Infantry Division assisted Globe in establishing Lifeline Telecenters for evacuees to get in touch with relatives and loved ones.

"Globe Bridging Communities is committed to partner up its alliance with the Philippine Army," said Globe Corporate Social Responsibility Head Jeffrey Tarayao. "We will continue implementing sustainable projects with the Army to provide a safer and peaceful environment for the Filipino people conducive to progress and development."

The men and women of the Philippine Army endure hardships to get their work done while in town and barrio and with every Filipino remains safe. While many soldiers like Capt. Orbe do not expect rewards, some incentive and appreciation can go long a way in motivating soldiers as they continue to keep the call of duty.

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Gocco

Obama: BP must pay for 'recklessness'

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA pushed alternative sources of energy while vowing to make BP pay for the devastation caused by its oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, addressing the nation ahead of a key showdown on Wednesday with BP executives.

Eight weeks into the crisis, oil **continues to gush from the broken** wellhead off the coast of Louisiana, millions of gallons a day. Obama has been powerless to stem the leak, and many Americans are angry at what they see as the government's slow response to their country's worst environmental disaster.

Obama warned there would be more damage before the spill is contained. He said the country would be tied up with the oil and its aftermath for months or years.

"We will make BP pay for the damage their company has caused," he declared in his first Oval Office address, a venue often reserved for matters of war. That is now how Obama describes the massive oil spill, a "siege" on the shores of America.

He also urged Americans and Congress to get behind his goal of passing sweeping energy and climate change legislation, a key domestic priority of his presidency that had become stalled in the Senate.

"Countries like China are investing in clean energy jobs and **industries that should be right** here in America. Each day, we send nearly $1 billion of our wealth to foreign countries for their oil," he said. "We tragically underbilling on our coast is the most painful and powerful reminder yet that the time to embrace a clean energy future is now."

Obama has been scrambling to show he is doing everything he can to stop the massive environmental and financial damage from the oil leak. But the government doesn't have the technology to stop a spill at a depth of 1.6 kilometers, forcing Obama to rely on BP to fix it.

"We will fight this spill with everything we've got for as long it takes," Obama said.

The president's address, which capped a two-day inspection tour of the stricken Gulf of Mexico region, was lent new urgency as scientists announced the spill would be worse than previously thought.

Obama's speech came on the eve of his meeting at the White House on Wednesday with BP executives, his first direct encounter with them since the April 20 explosion on an offshore oil well killed 11 workers. BP chair Carl-Henric Svanberg was invited and encouraged to bring other officials; BP chief executive Tony Hayward, the beleaguered face of the BP response, is expected to attend, too.

"I will meet with the chair of BP and inform him that he is to set aside whatever resources are required to compensate the workers and business owners who have been harmed as a result of his company's recklessness," Obama said.

The company said in a statement that it shared Obama's goal of "stunning off the well as quickly as possible, cleaning up the oil and mitigating the impact on the people and environment of the Gulf Coast. We look forward to meeting with President Obama tomorrow for a constructive discussion about how to best achieve these mutual goals."

Obama said the proposed fund, which would be used to pay fishermen, workers and business owners, would not be run by BP. He said an independent third party would be in charge to ensure people would be paid in a fair and timely way. Any issues remain unresolved such as who will oversee the escrow fund and how large it will be.

Obama said his administration had directed BP to mobilize more equipment and technology and clear stopped-up efforts in the coming weeks should result in the capture of 90 percent of the oil spewing out of the well. Completion of a 'relief' well later in the summer is expected to "stop the leak completely," he added.

Obama appears to be slide to announce a deal quickly to an important notice. He planned a meeting in the White House after the meeting.

Obama said he had asked former Navy secretary Ray Mabus, an ex-governor of Mississippi, to develop a long-term Gulf Coast Restoration Plan—to be funded by BP—to ensure such basic items, communities, fisheries, conservationists and residents.

Obama did not detail what this plan should include, but noted that it would go beyond just repairing the effects of the crisis on a unique, teeming ecology already battered by Hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita" in 2005. AP

OFFICIALS told President Barack Obama on the extent of the massive oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico. He has described his country's worst environmental disaster as a "siege" on the the shores of America. REUTERS

AP poll: Most Americans fault Obama on oil spill

WASHINGTON—AMERICANS HAVE BECOME just as dissatisfied with President Barack Obama's work on the Gulf oil spill as they were with his predecessor's handling of Hurricane "Katrina," according to an Associated Press-GfK poll released on Saturday.

Even so, the catastrophe appears not to have taken a toll on how Americans view the presidency overall. Obama's approval rating remained steady in the poll and he is more popular than President George W. Bush was two months after the hurricane.

Bush alone took the hit in public perceptions. In the spill, much anger is directed at BP, and the poll suggests Americans do not feel quite the sense of shame that afflicted them in the 2005 hurricane aftermath.

Still, most Americans are angry about the Obama administration's slow response, with 54 percent of respondents saying they had strong feelings about the bureaucracy's reaction. Many doubt that Washington could really help them if they were a disaster victim.

The survey found that 52 percent didn't approve of Obama's handling of the spill, a significant increase from last month when a big chunk of Americans withheld judgment.

A stunning 81 percent disapproved of BP's performance in the aftermath of the explosion that set off the spill. That percentage of Americans disapproving also **was a huge jump from May. Back then, people** seemed to take a wait-and-see approach.

Obama's overall job performance rating did not suffer even though he got crushing **marks on the spill; it stayed almost the** same at 50 percent. That's consistent with the public's attitudes throughout his young presidency; people generally like him but don't necessarily agree with his policies.

Disapproval of Obama's handling of the environmental crisis is similar to the percentage of Americans frustrated with Bush's handling of Katrina—even though in this case, people have an outcry other than the White House to blame.

In November 2005, two months after the hurricane hit, an AP-Ipsos poll found 53 percent disapproved of the job Bush was doing on hurricane recovery. And his overall approval rating suffered more, sliding to 37 percent. AP

PAINTINGS OF THE YOUNG OBAMA. Indonesian school children from Menteng Dua, the public elementary school that US President Barack Obama attended, now EXHIBITS OFFERS of Indonesian artist Darsten Dermawa's paintings depicting the young Obama.

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INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
46.150

STOCK MARKET
25.23

Wall Street boosts local stocks

LOCAL SHARE PRICES ROSE for the third straight day on Wednesday as local investors took cues from Wall Street's advance on the back of brighter

Remittances rose in April

Inflows remain unaffected by Eurozone woes

By Michelle V. Bunao

REMITTANCES MAINTAINED A HEALTHY PACE of growth in April, so far unaffected by the fiscal problems of the Eurozone, which some fear would turn into a full-blown economic crisis that may cause job losses for overseas Filipinos.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that remittances reached $1.52 billion in April, rising by 5.4 percent from $1.44 billion in the same month last year.

"Noted financial economist and sovereign debt problems in some European countries, remittances from overseas Filipinos continued to show strength amid the gradual recovery of the global economy," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

According to the central bank, the increase in April remittances brought the total to $5.86 billion in the first four months. This was higher by 5.4 percent from $5.5 billion registered in the same four-month period a year ago.

Overall demand for Filipino workers, especially for professional and skilled workers, remained strong as many countries outside the Eurozone showed signs of recovery from last year's global recession.

The BSP said remittances are expected to sustain the growth seen in the first four months because of overseas jobs processed in the year.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Ad-

Romero seeks gov't OK of N. Harbor buyout plan

Transaction to cost P350M

By Paola G. Montecillo

THE ROMERO FAMILY'S HARbour Centre Port Terminal Inc. is expanding despite cuts in financial capability, saying that the company never needed Pagcor's tax-free status to undertake the Manila North Harbor Port Inc.

In a letter sent on Tuesday addressed to Philippine Ports Authority General Manager Oscar Sevilla, HCPTI said it was MPIC that needed the Romeros' help to break into the country's port development industry.

HCPTI president and CEO Michael Romero asked the port agency to approve the company's plan to buy MPIC out at Manila North Harbour Port Inc. (MNHPI), the joint venture formed by the two companies for the development of North Harbor.

HCPTI decided to buy in partner's 35 percent stake in MNHPI, following MPIC's pronouncements that it would rather sell out than stay a minority investor in the joint venture.

The buyout will cost about P350 million.

"We respectfully submit that the project would not have been awarded to MNHPI were it not for the compliance by HCPTI with all the requirements set by the PPA, most particularly on the financial capability of HCPTI," Romero said in his letter, a copy of which was obtained by the business.

Romero wanted to belie speculations that it was MPIC's deep pockets, which supports HCPTI's technical know-how, that allowed the joint venture to win the 25-year contract.

MPIC is the local unit of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd.

Romero, in the letter, said the bid documents submitted by both firms showed this fact. Based on HPIC's 2008 financial statements, HCPTI said the Romero-led firm had four times (P4.2-billion as debt, while its assets were under P900-million at that time.

HCPTI in the same year had less than P200 million in debt and over P2 billion in assets.

"Accordingly, at the time of the bidding, HCPTI was even more financially capable than MPIC," he added.

"We wish to assure your good office that the sale and transfer of MPIC shares to HCPTI will not prejudice the project," Romero said.

PPA General Manager Oscar Sevilla said the papers raised by HCPTI would be presented to the agency's board today.

"I will call for a special board meeting tomorrow and see if they are willing to give consent to the change in equity. It's just a matter of one stockholder selling shares to another. I don't really see a problem," he said.

Alphaland seeks more BPO tenants

By Abigail L. Ho

PROPERTY DEVELOPER ALPHA Land Corp. is poised to attract more business process outsourcing clients, following the decision of BPO firms Raimasters Asia Inc. and Teleperformance to set up their regional hubs at one of the company's buildings.

Raimasters and Teleperformance now hold fort at the Alphaland Southgate Tower, a 20-storey building along Edsa and Chino Roces Avenue Extension in Makati City.

The strategic location of the building, being situated on a busy thoroughfare and immediately accessible via the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3, made it an ideal location for BPO firms.

"The location and accessibility were perfect for our needs," Raimasters vice president for Asia-Pacific operations Andrew Sardeña said.

Teleperformance managing director Jose Reyes added: "It was the ideal setting for our regional office, primarily due to the location and direct access to the Metro Rail Transit."

Also, since the building was recognized as an information technology zone by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, tenants also get to experience perks that come with PEZA accreditation.

Alphaland president Wonbo Cho said the decision of the two BPO firms to set up their regional hubs at the Southgate Tower showed that a building need not be located within the central business district (CBD) to be competitive.

He said the relatively new building, Alphaland's third office building, actually trumped many other buildings in the Makati, Ortigas, and Taguig CBDs, which were among the areas considered by Raimasters and Teleperformance.

Wall Street boosts . . .

From page B1

prospects for the EU economy.

The benchmark PSEi rose 25.22 points or 0.78 percent to close at 3,307.65. The broader all-shares index likewise went up by 0.66 percent or 17.9 points to 2,718.77.

"Primarily, it's the US market... which is benefiting from improved consumer confidence in the economy," said a trader from local brokerage Accord Capital. "It's also an extension of the gains from the ongoing stabilization because of the new administration."

Advancers outnumbered decliners 61 to 53, while 67 shares remained unchanged.

Trading volume inched up to 1.329 shares changing hands at a value of P5.25 billion.

The dominant vote turned across all sectors with holding firms leading the way with a 1.71-percent improvement to 2,279.46 points.

Financial post-opinion institutions Customer Technical Services Inc. (CTSI) was the most traded stock, accounting for 6.21 percent of all transactions. CTSI shares rose 2.44 percent or one point to close at P50 apiece. Paola G. Montecillo

Remittances . . .

From page B1

remittances (POEA), the central bank said newly hired Filipinos seen to be deployed abroad soon reached 137,868, up 11 percent from only 124,179 in the same period last year.

The labor requirements are accounted for mainly by professional, technical, production and service-oriented jobs.

Remittances are a closely watched economic indicator because it largely fuels household consumption, which is a major growth driver for the Philippine economy. Last year, the $17.3 billion sent home by migrant Filipinos was equivalent to about 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Earlier in the year, the BSP revised its remittances growth projection for 2010 from 5 to 6 percent as actual increase surpassed the 7 percent mark in January and February.

However, analysts said the 6 percent growth target has become challenging since the debt woes in some European countries are expected to have their gravest impacts in fiscal 2011. One possible consequence of the problems in the Eurozone is increase in unemployment, which in turn could pull down remittances.

Some economists, however, are more optimistic. The Philippines managed to register growth in remittances last year even at the height of the global economic turmoil, said on posting a similar record is not far-fetched, they added.

The $17.3 billion in remittances sent to the Philippines last year was higher by 5.6 percent from the previous year's $16.4 billion.

Currency issues in the Eurozone is seen to find the Philippines not only through remittances but also through export channels. Europe is one of the country's biggest export markets, accounting for about 16 percent of the Philippines' export revenues.

The government's economic managers, however, believe the problems in the Piigs will not substantially hamper the Philippines' own growth prospects.

Government officials the other day revised their growth forecast for the domestic economy this year from a range of 2.6 to 3.6 percent...to a range of 3.0-to-4 percent.

QUALITY & SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST
RICOH
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Alphaland seeks more BPO tenants

Turn to page B3

spaces for their new ventures.

"We are delighted to have been chosen by two well-established BPOs as the site for their expansion of operations in the country," he said.

Apart from the Southgate Tower, Alphaland is putting up a 10,000-square-meter, three-tower residential hotel on Ayala Avenue. The project is targeted for completion next year.

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"Microfinance: Successful Operations & Best Practices" SEMINAR, June 23, 2010, 10AM-4PM, Richmonde Hotel, 209 EDSA, Mandaluyong City. Topics: Central Bank regulations, rules, & policies—Pia Bernadette Naman, BAS Head; Best practices, tips, trends, & techniques—Erica Muñoz, Regional Manager, KMA Microfunds; Microfinance products & best practices—a rural bank's perspective—Reggie Ocampo, President, First Macrobank, Inc.; Call Tribune Knowledge Center Publishing: 231-6208, 531-0889, 0919-2286777, 0919-2286795, thkp.phil@yahoo.com or tribunk@pldtdsl.net Limited seats only! Register Now!

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BUSINESS

Senior citizens' VAT relief readied

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SENIOR CITIZENS MAY SOON ENjoy relief from paying the value-added tax once the implementing rules of the law granting them exemption will be promulgated on Friday, with the Department of Social Works and Development as lead agency.

Finance Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran said in an interview that the rules will be signed, paving the way for publication and eventual coming into force.

Since President Arroyo signed the Expanded Senior Citizens Act in February, the Bureau of Internal Revenue had to clarify that VAT exemptions for the elderly cannot be applied until the rules are released.

Signed last Feb. 16, the new law enables the elderly to enjoy fully the 20-percent discount on purchases of consumer goods and services provided for under an older law that took effect in 2003.

The Department of Finance had urged President Arroyo to veto the VAT exemption for the elderly and proposed that the discount be raised to 20 percent.

Finance officials said such exemption would present a logistical nightmare for the BIR which is already short of resources to implement existing tax measures.

The DOF had opposed the provisions of the law when it was still a bill pending in Congress.

Instead, the DOF had been amenable to increase senior citizens' discount on purchases to 30 percent of their bills from 20 percent, instead of a VAT exemption.

According to Beltran, the executive's treasury stands to lose P1.48 billion in tax collections in a year once the law is implemented.

THE COUNTRY'S MANUFACTURING industrial sector is awaiting...quite eagerly—the appointee of the next administration to the Bureau of Customs.

Word goes around that the next finance secretary may actually handpick the next customs commissioner.

Several names are churning in the industrial sector's crystal ball. Industry groups are already checking the records behind those names, looking for hints on each individual's stance of matters.

For among the thousands of appointments that the new president will make, none is more crucial to the vanishing industrial sector than the BOC post.

In local industries, the administration of

Curse of action

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bautol III

Sen. Benigno Aquino III, cites the country a chance to break away from the subsidized curse-cost upon the industrial sector by this core administration—smuggling.

* * *

IF YOU believe the findings of industry think-tanks, smuggling has become the country's most rewarding postwartime racket.

You cannot believe the horror stories describing the modus operandi used by the operators, which could not be possible without help from some bad BOC personnel.

Finished goods—chocolate candies, designer clothing, electronics and home appliances—have been flooding the domestic market.

Smuggling must have really been such a huge racket that the government has been deprived of some P70 billion a year in VAT collections alone.

Under the most popular technique of smugglers, they simply declare a much lower value of the imported goods and—voilà!...they escape the 12-percent VAT on the shipment.

Because of trade "liberalization," with GATT and Afta and what have you, cutting payment on import duties was hardly the magnet that the smugglers in several years.

It is the VAT actually, which is, by definition, based on the value of the shipment. So, just by lying on the value, you cut the tax payment currently.

* * *

PART of the job of the BOC chairdrive, was to check on the value of the import shipment.

The results carrying the importer's documentarily transmitted the "value" (based on the manifest) to the BOC. This means, the BOC actually got the authentic original data and it follows that all the "finessering" of the figures took place at the BOC.

Estimates made by the Federation of Philippine Industries put the "under declaration" of the value of imports at about $15 billion a year.

FPI chair Jesus Arranz said the estimate was based on figures from the IMF on the value of shipments of goods from other countries to the Philippines. That was about $45 billion a year, on the average, from 2005 to 2007, at the heydays of this administration.

The FPI estimated that the total value of the shipments declared to the BOC—was only $30 billion a year in the same period.

What happened to the difference of $15 billion? This, according to the FPI, must have been the amount of imports that were not declared, which means the smugglers did not pay the VAT on it.

Translated into pesos, all the cheating in importation amounted to almost P700 billion a year during that period. At a rate of 12 percent, the unpaid VAT alone should amount to more than P84 billion. That was every year. For the past several years!

* * *

WE ALL know that this core administration tried its best to post the highest ever yearly budget deficit in this country which it achieved last year at P300 billion.

This administration even increased the VAT from 10 to 12 percent, to narrow down the deficit. How much did it raise with the VAT increase? Some P60 billion a year.

The increase was not done in vain, as it allowed the smugglers to make more money.

They did not pay the VAT, right? So they sold their goods at VAT-paid prices.

It is small wonder then that the smugglers could afford to slow down prices a little just to wipe out the competition from the locals.

Meantime, what happened to local manufacturers? They struggled, if they did not die.

* * *

THAT has been the life story of our local industries. Given the advantage of unpaid duties and taxes, smuggled items can easily crush any token competition from the locals.

As a result...only a handful of local industries can be considered healthy—i.e. pharmaceuticals. Industrial investors are watching on the sidelines—i.e. construction materials. Some of them are already gone for good—i.e. textiles and tire manufacturing.

Does it mean that the local industries can no longer compete? This needs to the uncle, billion-peso question.

When many local industries struggling, they need the next administration to try to wipe out unfair competition from smugglers. That is the job of the BOC.

* * *

HAMFAVT smuggling did not only deny the government billions in direct revenues from importation. It also cut down collection of income tax from local industries. Smuggling has killed several local industries that could have paid income taxes.

The same also affected ordinary Filipino workers. How many lost their jobs when those industries folded up? Really, the ripple effect can be endless.

BUSINESS 2nd of 2

RP to grow by 4-5% a quarter in '10, DOF says

Gross domestic product expected to reach P8.53T this year

By Raoul M. Dominguez

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY IS EXPECTED to grow within the range of 4 percent to 5 percent per quarter for the rest of 2010, fueling a strong first-quarter performance, according to an official of the Department of Finance.

Finance Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran said yesterday the gross domestic product or GDP is now expected to grow to P8.531 trillion in current prices this year.

GDP refers to the total value of products made and services rendered within a country at a given time.

On Tuesday, the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee announced it had revised upward the 2010 GDP growth target to between 3 percent and 5 percent.

Based on the previous target of between 2.6 percent to 3.6 percent, the economic output's value would reach between P8.337 trillion and P8.497 trillion.

The DBCC said the change in target was due to the 7.3 percent growth posted in January-March, which was the highest first-quarter growth recorded in three decades.

Aside from that, the government sees stronger growth prospects for the rest of the year as economic activities generally improve with a better than expected global recovery, improved level of business and consumer confidence, as well as higher government spending on capital outlay and social services.

Still, the DBCC said the targets remain of the budget deficit to GDP was retained at 3.6 percent in line with the government's fiscal consolidation plan.

"That means the new deficit target is P380 billion," said Beltran, comparing to the previous target of P295 billion.

In a statement, Finance Secretary Margarita B. Teves said the higher GDP is expected to result in higher revenues for both the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

"This will provide the incoming administration ample resources to sustain spending to maintain the economic momentum," Teves said.

"We are always mindful that the government needs to maintain fiscal discipline and that is the reason why we are maintaining the 3.6-percent deficit-to-GDP ratio," he added.

Ethanol producers seek price index

By Jerry R. Barca

LOCAL ETHANOL PRODUCERS have asked the government to approve a proposed pricing index for ethanol to boost investments in the sector and prevent investors from pulling out their projects.

Teofil Gras-Capellan, executive director of the Ethanol Producers Association of the Philippines (Epap), said the group had sent to the National Biofuels Board its proposed price index, which will allow producers to recover their cost and earn a profit.

Capellan said that the price index will provide investors an assurance and, most importantly, a profit incentive that will make them to proceed with their proposed projects.

"With the NBB approval, more investments will come in. Right now, the environment for ethanol production has diminished because the Department of Energy doesn't have the political will to implement the Biofuels Law," the said.

Capellan cited listed firm Alcorn Consolidated Resources, which had shelved its proposed biofuel project.

Alco Power Inc. similarly announced in April that it would pull out its investment due to the government's weak support for the industry. The company was supposed to put up a 40-million-liter ethanol plant project in Cagayan de Oro.

Energy Secretary Jose C. Rectos said that the government was still studying ethanol pricing, saying that it was "very complex and similar to the sugar industry where it is cheaper to source abroad than locally. We have to weigh the benefits for consumers."

As such, Rectos urged local ethanol producers to instead further improve the efficiency of their operations to make local prices competitive.

NGCP wants authority to pass on line repair cost

NATIONAL GRID CORP. of the Philippines is seeking the power regulator's approval to pass on to consumers the P9.49 million it had spent to repair two of its damaged transmission facilities.

In a filing with the Energy Regulatory Commission, NGCP said it had repaired and rehabilitated the Mabini repair circuit 13.8-kilovolt AC power line in Sorsogon, which was struck by lightning last June 13, 2009, and Tower No. 142 of the Bikuan-Tarnawog-Naling 138-kV line in South Cotabato, which was bombed last March 16, 2009.

The damaged facilities have been put back into operation.

However, NGCP sought to recover from its Luzon customers 4.116 centavos per kilowatt-hour and from its Mindanao customers, 5.871 centavos per kWh to cover for the cost.

It proposed to recover its Visayas segment claims from Jan. 20, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2015.

"The timely implementation of the rate changes will allow the equal or even spread of the increases or decreases to tariffs from the initial implementation of the recovery of the cost. Any delay to the implementation ... will result in prolonged unrecovered cost on the part of NGCP," the company said.

Jerry R. Barca

Record high vehicle sales in 2010 possible, Campi says

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CAR SALES MAY HIT a record high this year as the return of consumer confidence and boost from election-related campaign spending lead to stronger economic conditions, The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines Inc. (Campi) said.

Although the group is sticking to its official forecast of selling 247,000 cars this year, or up 11 percent from 2009, breaking the record of 160,000 vehicles sold in 12 months is still a "possibility."

The record of most cars sold in a year was set in 1996, a year before the Asian currency crisis dragged the region's economy down.

Campi figures released earlier this month showed that in the first five months of the year, car sales shot up 36.6 percent to nearly 87,000 cars.

This compares to low single-digit growth rates experienced last year.

"Is it possible to surpass 1996? Given the growth trajectory we saw in the first five months, then yes, it's possible," Campi president Elizabeth Lee said.

Lee spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the media launch for the 3rd Philippine International Motor Show, to be held in the World Trade Center in Pasay City this August.

She added that the group's official growth forecast of 11 percent looked "very conservative" if compared to the industry's performance in the first five months.

"But that's already double the original forecast of a 4-percent growth for the year," Lee said.

She said she expects about one out of every three cars sold in the country this year, or about 90,000 units, to be commercial vehicles.

Passenger cars would make up the balance of 51,000.

In the January-May period, commercial vehicle sales hit 44,212 units, a 40.5-percent improvement from 31,471 units a year ago.

To date, industry sales averaged 13,350 units a month.

Car sales have been so strong, the group said some manufacturers even ran out of some vehicle models.

BUSINESS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
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INVITATION TO BID FOR THE REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF PERSONNEL SECTION AND OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Fund 101 intends to apply the sum of Php1,290,219.25 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair and Improvement of Personnel Section and Operations Division rehabilitated to excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected without opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites bids for the demolition, carpentry, tile, painting and electrical works. Completion of the Works is forty five (45) calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within ten (10) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested bidders may obtain further information from LTO Property Section, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the LTO Property Section, East Avenue, Quezon City from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by bidders from the LTO Property Section, East Avenue, Quezon City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php1,000.00.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procurement Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on June 23, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at LTO Multipurpose Edu. East Avenue, Quezon City which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before July 6, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the LTO Multipurpose Edu. East Avenue, Quezon City on July 6, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Atty. ROMEO J. OY
BAC-Chairman
5271958

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROMEO J. OY
BAC-Chairman

Malaya plant IPPA bidding fails

By Amy R. Borres

STATE-RUN POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND Liabilities Management Corp. yesterday declared as failure the bidding for the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contract for the 650-megawatt Malaya thermal power plant in Rizal.

Conrad Valentino, PSALM vice president for electricity trading, made the announcement after the government received only one offer to rent for the 12 more deadline yesterday.

The lone bid was from First Gen Luzon Power Corp.

"There being only one bid, there is a failure of bidding for the appointment of the IPP administrator for the Malaya thermal power plant," Valentino said.

Under the PSALM bidding procedures, at least two offers should be submitted.

PSALM was expecting two other bidders, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. (TA-Oil) and Shell-Pilipinas Inc. Both listed firms did not submit their bids, however. Diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp., which earlier expressed interest in the IPPA contract, was not included in the PSALM list.

Valentino said the PSALM board had yet to decide on and schedule another bidding for the IPPA contract.

The successful bidding of the Malaya IPPA would have allowed the government to breach the 70-percent privatization level required by law to trigger the start of the open-access and retail competition.

Under the open access regime, large power users will be able to choose their own power suppliers.

Before open access can be implemented, RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, mandates that five requirements be met: the establishment and commercial operation of the wholesale electricity spot market, the approval of unbundled transmission and distribution wheeling charges, the implementation of the cross-subsidy removal scheme, the privatization of 70 percent of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas generation, and the transfer of 70 percent of Napocor separately covered by independent power producer contracts to IPPAs.

A number of energy industry players and businesses are awaiting the implementation of open access. Some players in the energy sector had petitioned the Energy Regulatory Commission to implement an "immediate open access" while waiting for all the requirements to be met.

The Malaya thermal power plant is currently operated by Korea Electric Power Corp., through Philippine subsidiary Kepco Philippines. It won a 15-year rehabilitate-operate-manage-maintain contract in June 1995. The contract ends this year.

The plant rehabilitation was completed 10 months earlier with the recovery of its original rated generation capacity of 650 MW and with the improvement of its thermal efficiency by an average of 4.5 percent. The 20-year old power plant supplies electricity to Bulacan, Rizal and Laguna.

Open access expected to be delayed further

HSBC to increase infrastructure lending

By Michelle V. Ramos

MULTINATIONAL BANK HSBC SAID IT planned to expand its lending business in the country partly through granting long-term loans for infrastructure.

Mark Watkinson, outgoing HSBC chief executive officer for the Philippines, said the management under the new CEO would be open to extending more loans to private companies that invest in infrastructure projects.

Watkinson, who will head the bank's operations in Canada starting August, said there was considerable income opportunities in the Philippines, particularly in the infrastructure sector, given expectations that the country would post a diverse rebound this year from the downturn last year.

"The outlook is positive for the next decade," Watkinson said, referring to growth projections for the Philippines and the global economy. "The 7.3-percent growth [of the Philippine economy] in the first quarter is phenomenal," he said.

Tony Calpin, the incoming Philippine CEO of HSBC, said a more robust corporate lending will also be one of the bank's core strategies. He said infrastructure lending would help boost the overall economy in a way that a better infrastructure support will attract more tourists.

The plan of HSBC to engage in infrastructure lending will complement the government's desire to beef up private sector investments in more roads and other infrastructure projects.

Government economic managers have acknowledged the failure of the state to raise sufficiently its infrastructure. Public infrastructure spending in the Philippines stands at only around 3 percent of gross domestic product, significantly lower than the 5 percent average in Southeast Asia.

Officials said the anemic spending for infrastructure was partly due to the government's fiscal constraints. To boost investments in roads, bridges, farm facilities and other infrastructure in the country, officials said, the private sector should come in.

Grippo said HSBC also aimed to beef up its services to individual clients.

He cited the growing per capita income in the Philippines, which he said offered income growth opportunities for HSBC.

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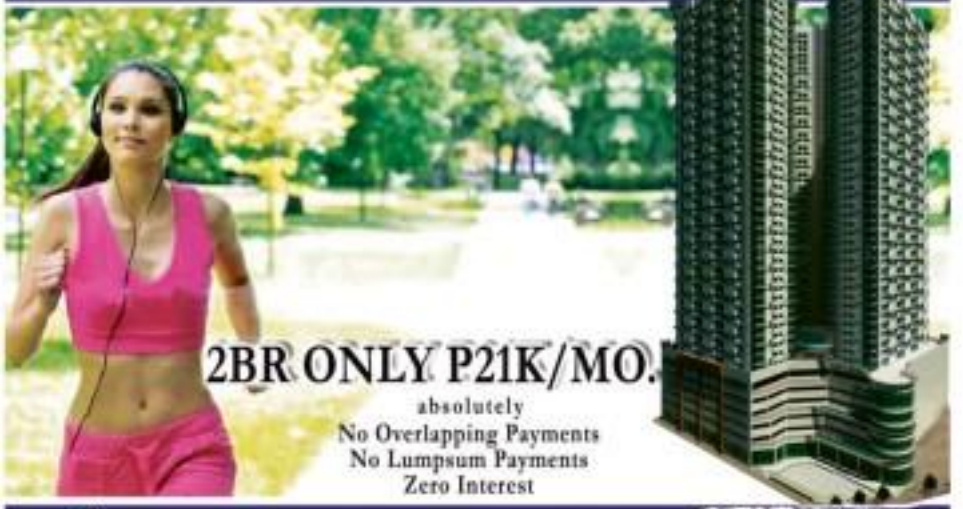

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HERB Crust Pink Salmon, White Asparagus, Steamed Potatoes and Hollandaise

Herb crust pink salmon with white asparagus, steamed potatoes and hollandaise sauce

By Vergie Baga-Reyes

MANY CHEFS around the world value white asparagus more than its green counterpart. The white variety is favored for its large, tender and delicately flavored spears.

Unlike green asparagus, which is available throughout the year, the white reaches its prime only in May and June.

It's even been called the "Food of Kings." Asparagus got its name from an ancient Greek word meaning "spread" or "shoot." The ancients had long considered the white asparagus—part of the lily family, which includes about 150 different species—a delicacy, but it was the Romans who developed gardening techniques to grow them. They enjoyed it in season and were the first to preserve it by freezing.

"It's an elegant, seasonal and richly flavored vegetable," says Madeline Weinstein, chef de cui-

CONTINUED ON C2

Step By Step

1

PREHEAT oven at 180°C. Boil asparagus in a liter of water, season with 1 tbsp of sugar and a pinch of salt. Add 30 g of butter. Boil till tender. Drain and cut in half. Set aside.

2

STEAM potatoes and season with a pinch of salt. Drain and set aside.

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

"YOU MUST TRY THE BEST SISIG IN MY BAHAY!"
- BIANCA AYALA
COLLEGE STUDENT

ANG RESTAURANT STYLE NA SISIG, PWEDE NO NANG MA-ENJOY SA BAHAY!

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SEH

BIRD MACHINE

SHERWIN'S LEAGUE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY Because you appreciate a well-orchestrated plan, you're a natural when it comes to organizing pleasant moments for others. Your kind nature allows you to convince others that you're interested in their ideas, even when you're not. Although you're a social butterfly, you are aware of when you want to socialize. And you personally get lots from your efforts. Actors might be one of the most powerful roles in your life. Eileen Ford (founder of Ford Models), tennis player Barry Mackay, singer/song writer Greg Kihn(b) actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Tackle your tasks that relate to work from both your and boss. Make a good day to perform your duties with enthusiasm and attention. Pay attention to your supplies, and shop for groceries early.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have business and creative ideas today. Jump right in and get things done. Be sure to check your facts, invoices and paperwork with children and spouse.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your focus is on home, family and emotional matters today. Your entire book and magazine, organizers. Stay in touch with family members, talk to people.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Short trips, dealing with siblings, schooling and starting your reading and writing are good choices for your today. It's a busy day, so pay attention to detail.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Keep an eye on your cash flow today. Make friends with your bank account. Important decisions might be on your mind. Trust your investments, big ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your ruler is in your sign today, and that means you're in a good mood. Your attitude is a good one. This also makes you a bit bolder as well. Ask for what you want!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pay it one day, and stay out of your own home. You could be in need of advice on certain matters today, especially investments and the past.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good invitation to meet with someone you've been interested in is extended to you today, especially with friends and acquaintances. Talk to people about your future plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Some aspect of your private life suddenly might be made public today. Keep your appointments with [illegible]

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a good day for you, because the Moon is in your favorite family sign. You might like to invite over or ask for someone. Entertaining in private from different friendships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Take care of important details. Keep up to date with incoming orders, [illegible] Don't forget to communicate with loved ones. Wrap up whatever you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Today, the Moon is directly opposite your sign. Furthermore, it is lined up with Mars. Tension with confrontations and close friends and/or lovers are likely! (But they can still be friendly.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	1	7	3	6	9	8	5	2
3	6	9	8	5	2	1	4	7
8	5	2	7	4	1	9	6	3
5	8	6	9	7	4	3	2	1
2	9	1	5	3	8	6	7	4
7	3	4	1	2	6	5	9	8
6	4	3	2	9	5	7	1	8
1	7	8	6	4	3	2	8	5
9	2	5	4	8	7	4	3	6

Concepts Sudoku

	6 8	2 1 4
9		7 5
7 5	1 8 4	2 3 1
1 6	4 3 8	7 3 5

Brilliant Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Herb crust pink salmon with white asparagus . . .

From page C1

3

SEASON both sides of salmon with salt and pepper. Add lemon juice and olive oil. Set aside.

4

TO PREPARE herb crust: In a bowl, mix together spinach puree, pistachio, parsley, fresh breadcrumbs and butter. Season with salt and pepper. Mix well.

5

TRANSFER on a plate, press fresh mix and set according to size of the fish. Chill for several hours.

6

TO PREPARE the hollandaise sauce: In a bowl, put 2 tbsp of white wine and 2 tbsp of white vinegar (preferably rice wine), two egg yolks, butter, and salt and pepper to taste. Whisk sauce continuously in a bain marie. Set aside.

Print pages C1

nine of The Peninsula Manila's Old Manila. "It's rich in potassium, phosphorus and calcium and an excellent source of Vitamins C and B."

The white variety is preferred in Europe, while the green is more popular in North America. Genuine white asparagus is grown by mounding the earth around the emerging spears. Without light, the stalks cannot produce chlorophyll, which would otherwise make them green.

Vermeer also takes note of the asparagus' versatility since it can be combined with all sorts of ingredients.

Like this Herb Crust Pink Salmon with white asparagus and steamed potatoes, served with hollandaise sauce. The asparagus is steamed, seasoned and boiled till tender yet firm. The pan-seared salmon comes with a thick top crust of herbs, butter and nuts for that nice, crunchy bite.

Vermeer says green asparagus can also be used in this recipe. However, it should be blanched for only 15 seconds so as not to make the veggie too soft or soggy.

To make the spinach puree, cook together 50g spinach (leaves only) with 20g water and transfer in a blender.

"The salmon and the herb crust can be prepared ahead of time but the hollandaise sauce must be done on the day itself at room temperature," says Vermeer, who's now hosting an asparagus festival at The Old Manila (tel. 6972868; extension 6708 and 6709) until June 19.

Old Manila's white asparagus smoothie are flown in fresh from Germany. Vermeer has also prepared a White Asparagus Degustation Menu which highlights the mild and nutty taste of the white veggie.

Ingredients

500 g 200b salmon (divided into four portions, each portion 140 g)

320 g white asparagus, thinned and peeled, cut the hard base

100 g potatoes, cut lengthwise (rectangle or circle, your choice)

80 g hollandaise sauce

80 g cherry tomatoes, blanched and peeled

100 ml olive oil

1 tbsp parsley, chopped

1tbsp butter

lemon juice

salt and pepper

Herb crust:

150 g breadcrumbs

1 tbsp basil, chopped

1 tbsp parsley, chopped

1 tbsp spinach puree

1 tsp pistachio nuts, chopped

10 g soft butter, unsalted

salt and pepper to taste

For suggestions, e-mail info@thepeninsula.com.ph

8

TRANSFER salmon to a plate and top with herb crust and bake for five minutes.

9

HEARTHOLD, sauté potatoes with butter, asparagus and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper. Broil veggies in paper vessel.

7

HEAT olive oil in a skillet and sear salmon on a light color. Three minutes on both sides.

10

ARRANGE nicely baked salmon on top of white asparagus. Add veggies and hollandaise sauce.

Shrimp cocktail with mango coulis

By Norma Chikiamco
Contributor

THE AEGEAN CONCEITS OF food show this that had been announced, not as native vinegar, but in the milder acidity of balsamic vinegar.

The kitchen is a fillet of salmon steeped in lemon juice, vinegar and coconut milk, served in restaurant white Chinese spoons. There are also prawns draped over shot glasses and a dip of spicy mango salsa.

Each serves the dishes in the buffet of Filipino food recently served at Dusit Thani Hotel's Basil Restaurant, held in celebration of Philippine Independence Day, the gastronomic feats was chef Stephanie Zubiri's rendition of contemporary Filipino cuisine. Aside from the aforementioned dishes, the buffet included chicken thigh fillets cooked in a Basil Pepenes, Indian basmati with soy mustard and lemongrass vinaigrette, and a lip-smacking dessert of sweetened tropical papaya puree that had the melt-in-the-mouth consistency of mini Marcos.

But Zubiri, it was not Fusion cooking but the use of French techniques to total local ingredients. The beef in the adobo, for instance, was browned first before being cooked and the balsamic vinegar was reduced until it caramelized. The results was a fresh tender dish that, while having the piquancy of native adobo, also had a mellowness to it.

Here's Zubiri's recipe for the shrimp cocktail with spicy mango coulis which readers may want to prepare at home.

Shrimp Cocktail with Mango Coulis

10-12 medium-size prawns boiled water

Stir the spicy mango coulis

2 medium-size mangoes (about 500 g), peeled and cut into cubes

2 tbsp sugar

4 tbsps Tabasco sauce

2 tsp fresh lemon juice

Salt and pepper

To garnish

Seaweed

Chopped chives or mint leaves for garnish

Boil the prawns and remove the veins running along the back of the prawns. Heat the prawns in salted water until cooked. Keep chilled.

For mangoes, sugar, Tabasco and lemon juice in a blender and blend on high speed until smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper. If the coulis is too thick, add little water.

To serve, spoon coulis into 10-12 individual shot glasses, dividing equally. Drape a cooked prawn over each shot glass. Garnish with sea salt and chives or mint leaves.

Tips

- Do not overcook the prawns or they will get tough. Cook them only until they turn evenly pinkish-orange in color then remove immediately from the pan.
- For another way to serve this appetizer, spoon the coulis in a dipping dish and put the dish in the center of a salad bowl. Drape the prawns over the side of the salad bowl.
- You can also sear the coulis on a nonstick frying pan if you prefer, then it further will little water or lemon juice.

HENRY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to the new batch of Culinary Arts graduates of the Henry Sison Culinary School. CHEF's Salad No. 1 and CULINARY No. 10. Other shots above and below during the recent Graduation Ceremonies and Parties of the graduates.

Website: www.henrysison.com

JOINT Chefs Schedule
WITH ASIA E. ANGLE

Yogurt
POUR N' WHIP

Almondz

Meat and fish processing seminar

THE GOLDEN TREASURE SKILLS Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing to be held at the PTTC, Department of Trade and Industry-Wag... Roxas Blvd., corner San Gil Puyat Ave., on June 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day is to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing. Participants will get to experience on how to make cracker, siomai, longganisa, bacon, Chinese (canton) sausage, embutido, chicken nuggets, chicken and pork ham, pork sisig, ham, tapa, fish fillet, Spanish and tomato sardines, tuna burger, squid ball, corned beef. Bonus courses include how to make vegetable preserve (pickles) in sweet papaya, ampalaya, carrot, sayote, etc.) and coconut butter. Also, participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snack will be served, handout and all raw materials for hands-on will also be provided.

Call 426-1926, 421-1517, 912-2601 or 433-7501, log on to or email Soldier Technologies.

'Know Your Child' workshop

The Art of Living Foundation-Philippines is holding a Know Your Child workshop on June 18-19.

Know Your Child shares practical wisdom to parents and caregivers, helping them understand the nature of children 5-12 years old and enabling them to deal with day-to-day issues with ease and joy.

Know Your Child is taught by Alka G. Mehta, an international teacher of the Art of Living Know Your Child workshop.

The workshop is by reservation only. Call (632) 4424168, 2121916 or 8926334. For more information about the workshop, log on to artofliving.org.ph and http://sites.google.com/site/knowyourchildphil.

Writing workshop

A workshop designed for adults and professionals who wish to learn the basics of creative writing is set June 26. Call 8154888, 8156926, e-mail christabel@yahoo.com.

mafbex
Manila Food and Beverage Expo
JUNE 16-20, 2010

Food Spells Fun

There is nothing quite so comforting as being surrounded by the familiar sight and smell of delicious food and there is nothing quite so exciting as the being able to try out something new. This is why at the Fourth Manila Food and Beverage Exposition (MAFBEX), which will be held on June 16 to 20 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, food enthusiasts will be treated to a few days of enjoyment as they watch culinary experts compete in cook-offs, get taught by the best-selling authors, and get up-close-and-personal with some of international cuisine from the regional and country pavilions on the expo.

Organized by Worldbex Services International (WSI) in cooperation with the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) for the benefit of SOS Children's Foundation, MAFBEX 2010 is the biggest and the most comprehensive food show in the country.

During the event, amateurs will be held for people who would like to learn more about the food service and hospitality industry. Throughout the duration of the event, professors and culinary experts from the La Salle College of Saint Benilde will be covering topics ranging from food styling, computer image enhancement, cooking for VIPs, to recent advances in food preservation, catering, and many more.

There will also be demonstrations of some products that may prove useful to certain food-related businesses such as the Uno Gourmet oven rediscovering salt demo and the quick chill refrigerator technology demo.

On June 18, the Negosyo series by Go Negosyo will be held. In this special session some business experts will provide in-depth information on topics relevant to those who are serious in making their business grow and must not be missed.

Amando Santelices will be among the speakers of having a positive entrepreneurial mindset. Professor Luis Cruz will show attendees how to spot business opportunities and develop innovative products. Chuck Araos' Pinkuin will share his thoughts on how to properly market a business. Finally, Yuto Dimakuntiago will explain how to small and medium enterprise owners and start-ups can fund their businesses and manage its finances.

Aside from the seminars, competitions will also be held on the five-day event. Here, expo goers will be able to witness how the food and service and hospitality industry can focus a promising new generation specialized talent, skills as they compete in competitions such as the Bocuse d'Or Cup, the Pasta Loop Cook-off, and the Chef's Attack competition.

The knowledge of having helped a future career also brings joy to many people, and that much would also be true in MAFBEX because part of the proceeds of the event will be donated to the ABS-CBN Foundation.

For more information, interested parties may call Worldbex Services International through numbers 311-6900 and 910-3611, through fax 911-2026, through email info@worldbex.com or info-worldbex.com, or they may also visit the WSI website, www.worldbex.com.

Natural, organic meals made convenient

THE CLASSIC veggie burger

By Lynnit A. Villaeba

THOSE WHO ARE READY TO go veggie when it comes to burger, as well as busy individuals who want to have meatless meals whenever and wherever possible, will welcome the news that natural and organic veggie burgers, not just the kind where you take the meat out, are coming to supermarkets from small deli shops to supermarket shelves.

Providing the big push is the arrival of Amy's, America's pioneering brand for frozen organic prepared food, to select supermarkets in Metro Manila. For starters, Santori's and Shoppers are offering taste tests for weekend shoppers.

The search for convenient healthy eating began 28 years ago in a converted barn in California where Rachel Berliner was cooking on busy to prepare garden-fresh organic meals they love. Vegetarians Andy and Rachel Berliner, who owned their restaurant after their newborn baby girl Amy, tried recipe after recipe, perfecting the veggie burger amidst the standard hamburger fare food backstage.

Before a national fund category even existed, the family business grew from niche market to mainstream that catapulted the name into the industry leader it is today.

Nutrition facts

Consider the signature veggie burger that Amy's is introducing to the Philippines: it tastes deliciously homemade because it does not try to imitate the taste nor the texture of no-ha-laden meats, but instead allows the natural flavors of many delicious food produce from an organic earth to be tasted.

A look at the nutrition panel shows that the veggie patty includes onions, mushrooms, soy protein concentrate, and bulgur wheat. Vegetables like celery carrots, tomatoes, bell peppers are thrown in to make it tastier than your usual hamburger fare.

The secret is in the bulgur wheat. Bulgur is a quick cooking form of whole wheat that has been cleaned, dried, ground into particles, and sifted into distinct sizes. The result is a nutritious, versatile wheat product with a pleasant, nutlike flavor and extended shelf life that allows it to be stored for long periods.

The vegetables and grains are all certified organic by QAI, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited and internationally recognized certifier. The recipes contain no genetically modified organisms (GMOs), no bioengineered ingredients. The burgers are suitable for vegans as they do not contain any dairy products. This certification is important to those who take their health... and the planet's — seriously.

The nutrition facts show that each patty has very low fat content. One patty or 120 calories, has 3 grams of saturated fat, and contains 10 g of protein, 3 g of dietary fiber and 390 mg of sodium with no trans fat or cholesterol. It also has a good measure of Vitamin A and C along with calcium and iron. It is a protein-packed party with a good measure of fiber.

Even "extra lean" beef gets more than half its calories from fat. And since 65 to 74 g of fat are the ninety-3-eggplant saturated fat. To add to that, meat has no fiber.

Almost any veggie burger can discover that they — and with no worries about contaminants like E. coli or Salmonella bacteria.

The team of the low-fat, protein packed, all organic ingredient party could easily be appreciated even by carnivorous and children alike. Add the bun, lettuce, patty, roasted sauce, cheese, tomato, pickle, ketchup and another bun on top and you have very filling, huge (it's got be a burger!). Jack or two friends to share.

Each pack has four patties with net weight of 10 oz (284 g). Given for grabs, Amy's frozen veggie burger is worth every penny from handwashing individual can get for a handful that will not compromise the health and offer variety and convenience.

Oven cheer up

Veggie burger is only one of more than 300 natural and organic choices, 80 percent of which are frozen entrees, pizzas and convenient foods, and about 20 percent canned soups, beans and chilis, and jarred sauces and salsas to complement with USDA National Organic Standards.

Amy's also offers a wide selection of dishes to satisfy different dietary needs and food preferences: from Lactose-Free to Light in Sodium, and are labeled as such. Examples of salt, garlic, onions and parsley, which help lower blood pressure, are used to season the food. Some are gourmet in breakfast and some are just plain "whole-hearted comfort food."

ORGANIC meals

What is common in these all ingredients are sourced from organic, pesticide-free farms within the proximity of its production plant. The food plant makes its own organic tofu. Its dairy choices are made with pasteurized Guernsey cow milk and do not contain animal enzymes or rennet. Its dishes contain meat, fish, poultry or eggs and they do not contain hydrogenated fats or oils. The cuisine makers makes it wholly natural and organic.

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Frozen seafood, allergen-free treats, cholesterol-free meats—available for home delivery

A young homemaker's not-so-secret tools of convenience

By Joanne Manahan-Paparoo
Contributor

GROWING UP I'D usually hear my mom tell me that when I myself became a mom, I'd grow eyes at the back of my head and many arms. (Be wise, of course, correct.)

I find myself planning everything five steps ahead. If my meal is planned, every peso accounted for. Unlike my college days, when eating rice from a can and instant noodles counted as gourmet meal, I have to stay on top of the groceries and menu and come up with good meals for my family's discerning palates.

It has never been more convenient to be a mom and wife than now, with so many wonderful products available out there that can be delivered right to your home to help ease the burden of shopping for food. There are businesses run by people who love what they sell. They are on top of quality control and very personalized.

Here are a few of my favorites.

Food and nutrition are very important during pregnancy and nursing. Eating the right kinds of fish loaded with Omega-3 fatty acids during pregnancy and while nursing a baby is important for the child's development.

However, your heightened sense of smell, abnormal lack of time to get away may make shopping for fish a tricky ordeal.

Enter Chuck's Frozen Seafood, a supplier who will deliver fresh fish and seafood right to your doorstep. Orders take two days to prepare but only because Chuck's Marketeers the freshly caught seafood to season its quality and to allow it to keep in your fridge fresh as the day it was caught for up to six months. Many natural, organic get on their mailing list, and Chuck's will send you delicious recipes using their goodies.

CLICK LOOKING at SEE THE PACKAGE.

Allergen-free delights

Some of the yummiest treats are made with some of the most common allergy-inducing in-

FROZEN SEA

DINING OUT

Wine-spiked spaghetti

THE SPAGHETTI SALMONE E VODKA IN SALSA ROSA PICCO-MERRY'S Bar is a must-try for pasta and seafood lovers. The dish is composed of spaghetti noodles and smoked salmon in cream sauce mixed with a splash of vodka. The dish is perfect with just the right dash of saltiness. Harry's Bar is at G/F, The Venice Piazza, McKinley Hill, Taguig City. tel. 7305594.

SPAGHETTI Salmone E Vodka in Salsa Rosa from Harry's Bar

Free dinner

Celebrate Father's Day at Makati Shangri-La with Just Like Daddy until June 20. Win tickets at the Chef's Table for 4 Operators at Dolce Event Café prepared by renowned chef Franco Brandini, a two-night stay in two Superior rooms, and breakfast worth P18,888 at Italian Pork Hawker lunch and dinner at Circles Event Café, Shang Palace, Kitaphe, Lobby Lounge, Red, Edsa Shangri-la and the Mezzanine until June 20. Dial-today tidbit has a chance to win an Ascot Shang custom-made suit from a choice of premium Italian materials worth P120,000 and gift certificates for a Boys' Night Out at Circles Event Café worth P12,000 for the raffle draw.

Other prizes include an overnight stay in a Superior Room for two persons including breakfast buffet at Circles Event Café accommodations worth P18,888 at Dolce Penthouse suite for five persons including breakfast at Circles Event Café, a five-hour to-do/picnic package that includes 30-minute zumba program, use of sound and steam bath for 30 persons, two 1-hour massage treatments with a choice of Relaxation Package (Lavender Leaf Facial and Aromatherapy Massage) or Marine Facial Package (Moisturizing Facial and Aromatherapy Massage), 30-minute pool relaxation complete with healthy juice drink, plus 30-minute salon treatment with haircut, foot spa, manicure and pedicure treatments. Package is P11,000 per night and is available until Aug. 31.

An affiliate of Peking Garden Group Philippines, Peking Gardens is open daily for lunch and dinner and located at level 4, Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 7298957, 7298958) and 3/L, Trinoma Path, Quezon City (tel. 9350102, 9350107).

CARIBBEAN SHRIMP SALAD All dads will receive a special token or Gumbo on Father's Day. Likewise, Gumbo prepares her own Caribbean Shrimp Salad, Seafood Jambalaya Pasta, Pork Steak and Ribs Supreme.

Gumbo Restaurant is on 3/F Mall of Asia, Robinsons Manila Midtown and The Block SM City North Edsa. Call 6333011, 5611808 and 5568036.

Arm pouch for Dad

On June 20, Father's Day, Ramyeki Boy will give all dads who dine in a Tampok Boy to-to Pouch. Good while supplies last in all participating outlets.

Braised pork belly

Tonkatsu offers Kinoji's Plate (Son of Meal) on June 19 and 20. Included are Gokkakuon, braised pork belly in sweet Japanese sauce paired with Sail Rakshya and Mabuhay Tadyang, beef short ribs simmered in red wine served with garlic rice and pickled vegetables. Other bestsellers are Cheeseroniak Burger, Steak & Fries, Sisig Carbonara, Beefy Shrimp and Corn Chowder, Asian Chicken Salad, Tan Mee Pinya with barbecue and guacamole sauce, Black degree Tijuana Burger topped with Chorizo con Queso and Guacamole, Asian Quesadilla and Sundae with fudge to sweeten and fresh strawberries. Call 3028757. Visit Tonkatsu at unit 1&2 Tiong Commercial Complex, Timog corner Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City.

Beef burger

InterContinental Manila's Ilang Gumbo postulate restaurant offers beef burgers with a choice of all-vege and all-meat cheese. Bacon, egg, mushrooms, pineapple, onion rings, French fries, nachos, chilies or salads. The burger feast priced at only P695++ per person can be availed from 6 nights, 6-8 p.m. a

PORK TENDERLOIN MARSALA Burgos offers four new dishes especially prepared for fathers on their special day. The dishes are Pork Tenderloin Marsala, Hawaiian Shrimp Salad, Chicken Florentina and Steak Kebab.

An additional treat...they will create a special gift at all Burgos outlets in Tomas Morato, Scarborough Center, The Podium, Promenade in Greenhills, Gateway Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria, The Block SM City North EDSA, and SM City Manilena. Call 9277434, 4981615, 6875254, 9128709, 3568091, 6134256, 4481113 and 477 1111.

Hickory spareribs

The French Baker offers freshly baked breads and pastries, soups and meals at affordable prices. Dishes include Hickory Spareribs and Beef Burgundy in Casserole served with choice of two rolls. Pastries include Choco Chip Muffin, Blueberry Danish. Make Father's Day more special with a limited edition of Happy Father's Day Combination Bag. There is available with every P1,000 purchase on any of The French Baker products in all The French Baker Branches or at SM branches nationwide, Landmark Makati and Megamall, and Rustan's, Galleria in Ortigas, Ermita and Otis.

Cabanas

Yellow Cab offers cabanas, tabal barbecues that are made out of pizza dough and filled with various ingredients such as mozzarella, ham, salami, or vegetables. Offered are Hula & Cheese Cabana (ham, cheese, onions & green bell peppers) and Cabana Bukidnon, which comes in Barbecue & Pepperoni, Chicken & Ham, and Meatball & Mushroom. Visit www.yellowcabpizza.com.ph. Call 709-9999 for 24/7 delivery within Metro Manila.

Moroccan sea bass

Shiftah fish, oysters, shellfish, crabs, lobsters, sea bass, grouper, and soles that are baked, grilled or steamed. There's Moroccan Sea Bass stuffed with couscous, and served with roasted vegetables. Desserts include Grandma's Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Brown Cake and Dulce De Leche Cheesecake. Shiftah is at G/L, Eastwood Mall, tel. 9000886.

Seafood dishes

Chatterbox's lunch and dinner buffet is available for P788++ on Monday to Saturday and P490++ on Sunday. Chatterbox has branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, G/L, The Lodge, tel. 9104086; Trinoma Mall, North Wing, G/F, tel. 9013007; and Ayala Triangle Gardens, 2/L, Cardinal Santos Ave., Makati City. Chatterbox accepts catering and reservations.

Free buffet breakfast

InterContinental Manila's Dad's Time is time that is offered on the weekends at June 19-20, and 26-27 for local residents. The package consists of an overnight stay in a deluxe room, inclusive of buffet breakfast at Café Jacqueline, and a round of non-alcoholic drinks at the Gokkakuon Bar for two, 60-minute foot treatment at the hotel's Banyan Tree Spa, access to the pool and gym, 15-percent discount on Banyan Spa services worth at least P1,000, PADI-certified 30-hour salsa Great Outs by Angelo Jacinto, free copy of Men's Health, Tee-Time via Entrepreneur Magazine plus a bonus Titleist ZipKart Playing Materials. Buy 2 Take 1 Free Golf sessions with Tee-saving badges or head socks for him, and a golf face for three persons, and P500 credit on Kurt Cobain rates. Playing license is not inclusive to the offer which is subject to Official conditions.

On Father's Day, June 20, choose from three dining options: lunch or dinner buffet spread at Café Jacqueline for P1,800 net per person (Three entitle a 4x50ml combo with play area and supervised learning activities inside the Café from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) or gourmet lunch with buffet of appetizers, choice of soup, main course, and dessert for P1,800++ per person or a la carte dinner at Prince Albert Rotisserie. Father's dining of any of these restaurant offerings will include a surprise for the Top girl. Call 7031000.

STRIPLOIN STEAK

Make Thursday nights sizzle at Shangri-La's Kitchen Playground when dining on grilled succulent cuts on sticks, accompanied with the best marinades. Get a limitless fill of the gourmet grill together with other entrees and an all-night free flow of red wine at Palm Court Café's Sizzling Steak Nights. The Sizzling Steak Nights dinner buffet offers US Striploin Steak, US Rib Eye Steak, US Hanger Steak, Beef Tenderloin Steak and Roasted US Prime Rib on top of all the appetizers, soups and dessert's one can ask for only P1,630++ per person every Thursday, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Call 6383000 ext. 1121.

PORK 'SISIG'

Congs Grills profiles Sinsarna Wings, Baked Scallops, Dilis at Spring Rolls, Pork Sisig, Crispy Pata, Sizzling Stuffed Squid. The restaurant has outlets in El Pueblo, Ortigas Center, Pamplona, Alabang, SM City Fairview, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Clark, SM Mall of Asia, SM City Pampanga, Magsaysay-The Mall, Colonnades, and Roxas Manila, Quezon City. Visit www.congsgrills.com.

SEAFOOD WITH PUMPKIN SOUP

Dr. Father's Day, Peking Garden offers a special set menu which includes assorted seafood with pumpkin soup and Peking duck. The stuffed chop spring onion tiger prawns, braised spa-

tops with special spicy sauce, fried dishes in chinese sauce, preserved olive and coriander rice topped with garlic crabs, and steamed supreme soup and pork dumplings, with mashed bean pancakes and chilled mango cream with sago for desserts complete the special set menu. Peking Garden is throwing in a complimentary bottle of wine for its special Father's Day set menu.

Chocolate ice cream cake

CHOCOLATE ice cream cake

HERE ARE SPECIALLY CRAFTED CHOCOLATE recipes from Hershey's.

Hershey's Firecracker Cake

Ingredients:
4 eggs, separated
½ cup plus 1/3 cup granulated sugar, divided
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ c all-purpose flour
1/3 c Hershey's Cocoa
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
1/3 c water
powdered sugar
1 c cherry pie filling
1 tub (8 oz) Frozen whipped topping, thawed and divided
Hersey Bread Milk Chocolate, Hugs Bread Chocolates, Miniatures Chocolate Bars
Strawberries, raspberries, halved strawberries
1 plastic red licorice stick
Directions:
1. Heat oven to 375°F. Line a 15½ x 10½ x 1 inch jelly-roll pan with foil; generously grease foil.
2. Beat egg whites in large bowl until foamy. Gradually add ½ c granulated sugar, beating until stiff peaks form.
3. Beat egg yolks and vanilla in a small bowl on high speed of mixer for about three minutes. Gradually add remaining 1/3 cup granulated sugar. Continue beating for two minutes more. Combine flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to the egg yolk mixture alternately with water on low speed, beating just until the batter is smooth.
4. Fold chocolate mixture gradually into the egg whites; spread evenly in a prepared pan.
5. Bake 13-15 minutes, or until the top springs back when touched lightly in the center. Immediately loosen cake from the edges of the pan; invert onto a towel sprinkled with powdered sugar. Carefully remove foil. Immediately roll cake in a towel, starting from the narrow end. Place on a wire rack to cool.
6. Unroll the cake and remove the towel. Spread with pie filling and 1½ c whipped topping; roll the cake again. Frost with the remaining whipped topping. Arrange the candies and fruits on the frosted cake so that they form stripes around the cake. Insert the red licorice stick on one end to make the "body" of your fire cracker cake. Refrigerate until serving time.

Serves eight to 10.

Chocolate Ice Cream Cake

Ingredients:
2 eggs, separated
1½ c sugar, divided
1½ c all-purpose flour
½ c plus Hershey's Cocoa
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
½ c vegetable oil
1 c buttermilk or sour milk*
Ice cream layers (recipe follows)
½ c sweetened whipped cream or sundae-type whipped topping
½ c fresh fruit, sliced
Chocolate Cream Shooters, optional (recipe follows)
Directions:
1. Heat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour three 9-inch round cake pans. (If only two pans are available, reserve one-third of batter in the refrigerator while the first two layers are baking.)
2. Beat egg whites in a small bowl until foamy. Gradually add ½ c sugar; beating until stiff peaks form. Stir together flour, cocoa, ½ c sugar, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Add oil, buttermilk and egg yolks; beat until smooth. Gently fold egg white mixture into the batter. Pour about 1 2/3 c batter into each prepared pan.
3. Bake 18-20 minutes or until the cake springs back when touched lightly in the center. Cool for five minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks. Cool completely.
4. Wrap cool layers separately in foil; freeze for several hours or several days in advance.
5. Prepare ice cream layers. Remove cake and ice cream layers from freezer; peel off foil. On a serving plate, alternately layer cake layers and ice cream layers, beginning and ending with a cake layer. Wrap tightly; return to freezer. Just before serving, frost the top of the cake with whipped cream, then top with fruit slices. If desired, pipe on the chocolate rosettes.

Serves 10-12.

Ice cream layers: Line two nine-inch round layer pans with foil. Quickly spread ½ gallon of softened ice cream evenly in the prepared pans. Cover tightly; freeze until firm.

*Chocolate cream rosettes: In a small mixer bowl, stir together ¼ c sugar and 2 tbsp Hershey's Cocoa. Stir in ½ c cold whipping cream and ½ tsp vanilla extract. Beat until stiff. Spoon into a cake decorating bag fitted with a large rosette tip.

*To sour milk: Use 1 tbsp white vinegar plus milk to make 1 c.

HERSHEY'S firecracker cake

Frozen seafood, allergen-free treats, cholesterol-free ...

Front page D1

problems such as dizzy, eggs and more. If a child is sensitive to these ingredients, which they are for eating or getting through breast milk, Hearts hearth, home of vegan treats, will satisfy your sweet tooth.

Heart2Hearth offers Chocolate Chip Cookies, Dark Chocolate Velvety Mousse and Apple Oatmeal Raisin Cookies that come in delightful "to-go" packaging.

Heart2Hearth also offers savory treats such as lentil croquets, falafel and hummus, also allergen free. Place orders 48 hours in advance as these treats are made with food and imported organic ingredients with no synthetic preservatives or colors.

Call (917) 6003665; e-mail heart2hearth@gmail.com; visit www.heart2hearteats.com; Facebook: Heart2Hearth.

Mixing with freshness

Nothing warms the heart more than freshly baked treats made by mom. However, some recipes call for elusive ingredients such as buttermilk.

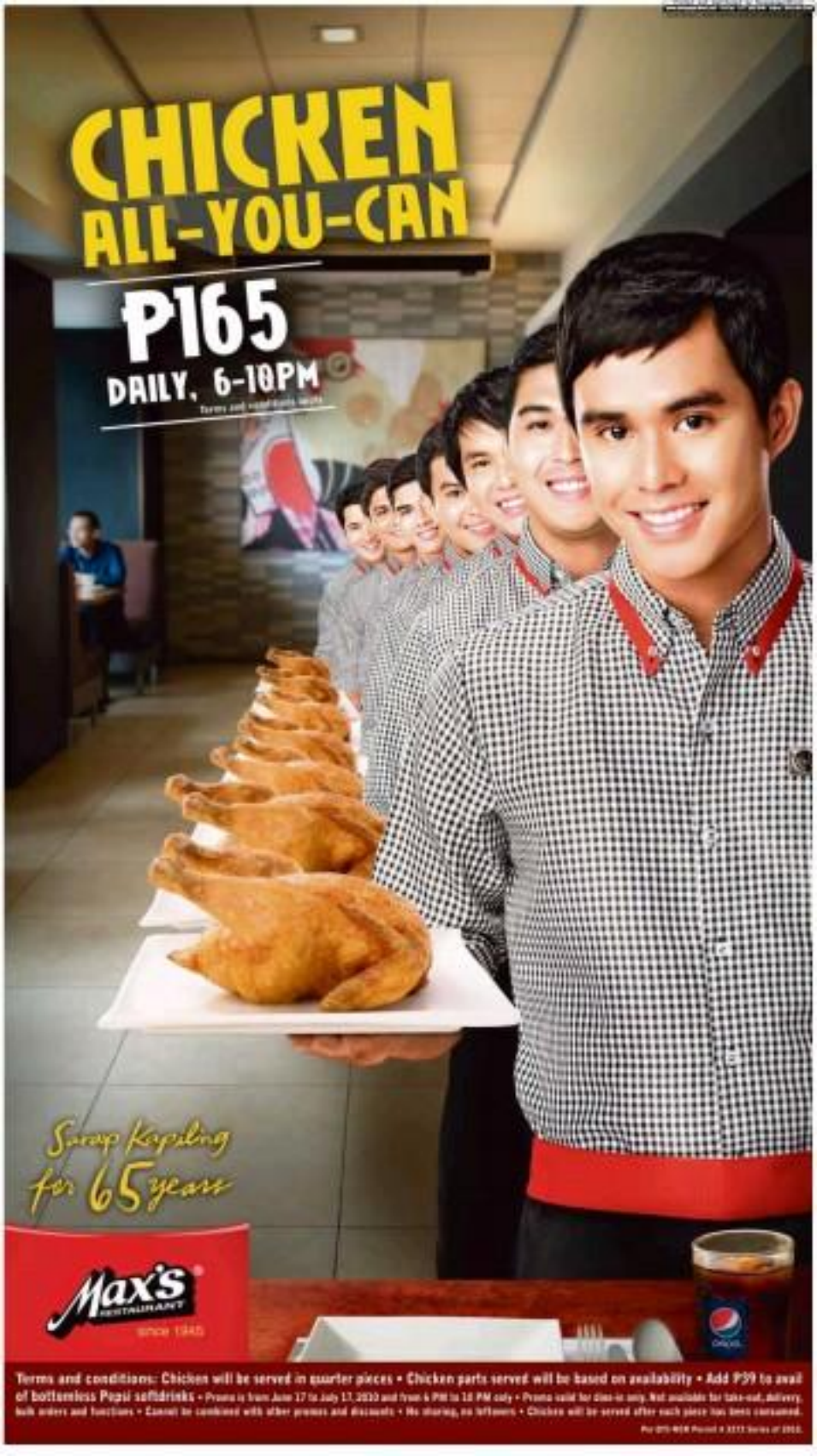
Pia Lim-Castillo offers dairy products that are fresh and without preservatives, delivered right at your doorstep. Pia's dairy products are artisanal—here, a variety in commercial milk, and helps local farmers. Choose from comfort milk, Mozzarella di Bufala (organic and low fat), Ricotta and, of course, my favorite buttermilk, as well as organic vanilla bean grown in Bukidnon for the purest taste in your baking and so much more.

*E-mail foodtravels@mac.com; call 7293265 or 7293433 and look for tastemaker Emma.

Meat man

Savory a juicy steak in hilill your craving and protein intake? Cuts Steaks are the best steaks on the market. Tried, tested and proven to be better than store-bought meats, and gives value for your money. Cuts meat cuts are generous and best of all, without the fatty cholesterol causing marbling while still remaining tender and juicy. Cuts also has excellent Wagyu burgers, ribeye steaks and lamb chops, perfect for barbecues and quick gourmet meals.

For orders, contact 8917 8867/89 or 3879008.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For BIR-WEB Permit # XXXX Series of 2019.

LIFESTYLE Food

Where to get the best Hainanese chicken rice

IN AN ASIAN CITY ON PARADE HILL in Singapore a few years back, I stayed at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel where my good friend and classmate from Cornell University, Lim Tang Fee or Steven Lim was resident manager. Since it was my first time in Singapore, he took me to the best dining places.

First stop was a place that served the best Bak Kuh Teh or Singaporean Spare Rib soup. This is a dish with tender pieces of pork ribs in dark broth with loads of different herbs.

He also took me to food centers like Newton Circle with its variety of stalls serving excellent local and neighboring Asian cuisines.

Satay Club was where I sampled the best mee siah or Indian spaghetti dish which was slightly spicy but delicious nonetheless.

He also took me to a restaurant once a river that served the best chili crab of this country.

After the culinary tour which took a few days, he brought me to Maxkatch's coffee shop that, according to many people, has the best Hainanese chicken rice in the city. Chatter Box also serves a sweet Rojak—a Malaysian dish with pineapple, bean sprouts, cucumber, eggplant, peanuts and shrimp sauce. His Hainanese Chicken Rice is simply out of this world. I never forget that experience.

Another that compares with this version is the one the Singaporean Airlines' executive chef prepared for our Asian journalist group at a wine tasting for the Raffles Class. With me there was the famous and humble Ricky Lo who also enjoyed this dish and culinary experience.

In the cooking demonstration of Hainanese Rice, the chef steamed pandan leaves for the rice to make the rice aromatic. This was a new and interesting idea. Superb!

Another Singaporean friend from Vancouver, Luzilla, also showed me how to prepare a long and tedious version. Equally delicious.

Beside Bacilla del Castillo, a one-time resident of Singapore, sent me her recipe adaptation of the dish. Also looks interesting.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sunday Gracia

Original version

I borrow the original recipe from a different country of chicken. The chicken is huge and the skin thick which gives it more fat and flavor.

Usually, the chicken is served with three kinds of sauces: finely minced and seasoned ginger, thick and mildly sweet soy sauce, and chili. The chicken is moist and has no sauce and is sometimes served at room temperature. The rice is warm. Usually, soup from the boiled chicken meat comes with the dish.

I found it hard to come across a Hainanese Chicken Rice that came close to these four versions until a friend and fellow foodie, Luigi Emilio emptied out with an early dinner invite of locally prepared Hainanese chicken rice.

Although the chicken is not the imported variety, the dish as a whole can be compared with the four others. *Sarap dito!*

One must order this dish a day in advance. It is a whole chicken with the Hainan rice or another kind of rice called silver rice and three main dipping sauces that come with this dish. The broth comes with the chicken.

I find the broth and gravy it on the chicken if you like your dish warm. The Hainan rice is made from the broth of the mildly boiled chicken while the silver rice is similar to the Hainan rice but with chopped black olives. I find the flavor of this dish to be subtle but the taste will grow on you.

The local version, Stevie, was a long-time resident of Singapore.

I let my mom Seve taste it and she gave it a thumbs-up. So I'm settling this. I'm craving for it.

To my good friend Hilde who says I often write about places far from where she lives, here's one for you.

For Stevie's Hainanese Chicken with Chicken Rice or Olive Rice in Makati call 0906.5084155.... highly recommended!

For Sushi Rasa, which came out in last week's column, call 4156601 or 0915-9482246.

Happy eating!

E-mail the author at sunnydaza@yahoo.ca

Easy-cooking Tamales de Pampanga in flour

Instead of 'galapong' (ground rice), all-purpose flour is used. For toppings, one can experiment with pork, beef and seafood

Step By Step

By Yvngie Bags-Reyes

TAMALES IS ONE OF PAMPANGA's favorite snacks. However, the Kapampangan version is not to be confused with the Mexican tamale which comes in tortilla wrapping.

Tamales, the Pampanga version, is a special rice delicacy topped with salted eggs, meat slices, peanuts and other condiments and wrapped in banana leaf and steamed.

This recipe comes close to the Pampanga original tamales because instead of using galapong (ground rice), the chefs makes use of all-purpose flour to make it easy for foodies to do at home. The flour is toasted over moderate heat until golden brown).

Chef Rosel Mendoza, Mom Kitchen researcher and demonstrator, shows how to prepare tamales the simplest way. Cooking may seem to be more heavy. It's a bit sweet and topped with pieces of hard-boiled egg. The ingredients are readily available.

"For the toppings, you can experiment and use whatever you like, such as pork, beef and seafood," says Mendoza, who concocts dishes at the Mom Kitchen. (tel. 8921195). "You can also put vegetables if you're a vegetarian."

The tamales is best eaten with a few drops of Tabasco sauce for that extra kick.

Before wrapping the tamales, pass the banana leaves over stainless flame to soft them, to soften its sterilize.

Ingredients

2 c Maya all-purpose flour, toasted
½ c coconut milk
1 c chicken broth
1 tsp salt
½ c brown sugar
½ tsp black pepper
½ c peanut butter
2 tbsp annatto oil
¼ c oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
½ c sliced onions
1 c shaked cooked chicken
1 c ham strips
2 tsp paprika
1 tsp ground cayenne salt to taste
2 pcs hard boiled eggs, sliced
banana leaves (for wrapping)
Yield: 20 pieces

For suggestions, e-mail the author at ybags@inquirer.com.ph

1 HEAT SKILLET, heat oil then sauté garlic and onions. Add ham, chicken and ham. Season with paprika, cayenne and salt. Set aside to cool.

2 IN A DEEP pan, combine toasted flour, coconut milk, chicken broth, salt, sugar and pepper.

3 ADD peanut butter. Cook over low heat until thick. Stir constantly to prevent sticking.

4 CONTINUE cooking paste until it separates from the sides of the pan.

5 TRANSFER half of the paste mixture to another container and add the annatto oil. Mix until mixture is fully coated with oil. Cool.

6 FORM both pastes separately into rectangles, then divide each into 10 portions.

7 CUT banana leaves into 7"x 7" pieces. Lay one banana leaf on top of the other to a cross form. At the center, put side by side one portion of the white and red paste. Fold in tightly to form two rice pasts.

9 WRAP with banana leaf to seal folds. Repeat procedure with the remaining tamales.

8 TOP each tamales with enough meat mixture and sliced egg.

11 STEAM for 25-30 minutes. Cool, unwrap and serve with a nice warm cup of coffee or tea.

10 WRAP the two pairs of tamales in a sheet of cling wrap. Then wrap again with a sheet of aluminum foil.

Win dream kitchen and trip to Singapore in culinary contest

SM HYPERMARKET first launched the Super Chef series by turning it into a reality show—think "Iron Chef" meets "American Idol" meets "Survivor."

Super Chefs is open to anyone who can cook: housewives, caretakers, owners, culinary school students or professional chefs. The competition is divided into three stages: audition, elimination and grand finals.

Super Chef's grand finals will be aired on the Asian Food Channel and hosted by chef Tristan Encarnacion.

To qualify for the audition round, participants need to present a P600 single or accumulated purchase from any SM Hypermarket inclusive of the sponsors' products together with one's cooked dish on submission day. Contestants will be judged by celebrities like Wilma Cuichoc and the country's top chefs like Reggie Aquino.

The grand winner of the SM Hypermarket Super Chefs will take home a kitchen showcase worth P350,000 and go on a four-day all-expense paid trip to Singapore for culinary training. Runners-up will win P50,000, P20,000, P15,000 and P10,000 SM gift certificates.

The contest is ongoing until July. For details, visit any SM Hypermarket branch, log-on to www.smhypermarket.com, or Super Chefs on Facebook.

SM Hypermarket Super Chef's 2010 is sponsored by Unilever Foodsolutions, Sea-Sr, Yan Bains, Pureblend, Selecta, Bryll Miracle Whip, Classi Whip, Kraft Cheese, McCormick, Lee Kum Kee, Kikkoman soy sauce, Datu Puti and San Miguel Foods.

Wagyu cooked on stone grill

WAGYU BEEF IS THE LUXURY ingredient of the moment for the discriminating set. So why not give the best treat on Father's Day: the world's finest steak for the world's finest chef?

Wagyu on stone grill is the perfect marriage of the world's finest steak with the most natural type of cooking.

Blue Ash Chef's choice cuts: ribeye, tenderloin, porterhouse, New York Strip, Top Sirloin—the size vary in weight and grades from marbling means higher grade. The higher the grade, the more tender the steaks are.

For some the best cut is the Tenderloin because it is the least toy chewy part of the cow. But some prefer Rib Eye because it has lots of marbling. This is very rich and buttery.

For those who want their steaks leaner, they go for the Top Sirloin. Others like the Porterhouse because they love the combination of rib eye and tenderloin steak to the bone; they like licking the bone.

Beef can go as low as P6 grams. At 200 g, he can share it with three. Or a family of 5-6 can share a 500-gram cut.

At the Wagyu Stone Grill in Eastwood, wagyu steaks are served on a special volcanic rock preheated to hundreds of degrees for several hours. They do not go through marinades or complicated procedures. They are served pure and unadulterated.

The Home of Wagyu uses a special kind of volcanic rock similar to the one sourced from Greece that does not break even in high temperatures.

Diners get to grill his steak on well-done stone right on the dining table. The volcanic stone is the ceramic type and the exact material Datu of cooking. No salt. No artificial ingredients. Just salt and pepper to add. The natural flavor Wagyu beef is known for—with the cholesterol and juices—is locked in and never lost.

Steak lovers get to time the cooking and eating, using a cooling plate for steaks to take any pieces and eat them slowly.

Every bite is perfect because one can control the temperature of meat, aroma and the right of searing steak on stone. It's a dramatic way to have a memorable Father's Day meal.

For reservations, call 7580393-96 for Eastwood and 6305666, 6353056 for Podium.

GRILLING steaks on volcanic stone is the most natural form of cooking. No oils and artificial ingredients, just salt and pepper. The natural flavor Wagyu beef is known for is because it...

Cans made from cornstarch, tableware and cutlery from potatoes

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspinwall

MOTTO: EARTH needs our help. With our choices and lifestyle change, we can all make a difference.

We all want to go green but "how" is the question.

I called Nielson Co. Inc. (0077 5665000) after reading his e-mail. If we are aware of the benefits of his new line, we can all join the cause and do our bit/ share to save the Earth.

In truth, I gave him a call to understand the product literature, which read like a science journal.

The first thing he did was define the terms as I could understand better.

This is interesting. Imagine trash cans made from cornstarch, tableware and cutlery from potatoes.

Biodegradability: The ability of waste materials to chemically break down/reduce/expose to certain physiological environment.

Compostability: The ability of waste materials, usually of organic origin, to transform to compost or fertilizer.

Sustainability: The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Renewable: A natural resource is renewable if it can be replaced by natural processes at a rate comparable or faster than its rate of consumption by humans.

Eco-friendly

Still not satisfied, Co paid me a visit to show the actual products that arrived last Friday.

The eco-friendly products had a different feel to them, definitely not the type we're used to, as far as disposable utensils and cutlery are concerned. Design wise, they are state of the art and sturdy—the type I wouldn't mind dishing on.

I learned that bowls and plates made from potatoes have an advantage. They neither can't nor lose their form when they're used to serve hot food.

Made by Inconvers, this product line is touted as the "best thing that ever happened to the potato since French fries." Made from the "by-products of potato processing to create a full range of food service items."

"These potato starch products are 100 percent biodegradable, fully compostable, suitable for hot and cold food (microwave-safe for reheating, heat stable to 370°, freezer safe) and FDA approved for direct food contact."

The Earth Cups for hot and cold beverages are "bio-luse coated inside and out, made from 100 percent 'renewable' resources, biodegradable and compostable. The cups degrade 100 percent in a composting facility or in a manner environment."

I asked: If I had this with me on a beach, then it gets thrown to the ocean and the fish ingests it, will they die?

He chuckled. "No! There is nothing toxic in it. Even the ink used is common print ink then is made from corn ink."

Well, who wants petroleum or toxic bottle later?

The double wall insulated Earth Cups are "the best solution to replace petroleum based hot cups. It keeps drinks hot longer, up to 20 percent and are sturdier than regular paper cups. It eliminates the cost and storage of cup sleeves and causes with 100 percent biodegradable potato starch based lids, FDA approved."

Even coffee house owners might want to look into.

Finally, we got to the cutest product—the trash can you can hang anywhere near you while cooking, lined with Biofag food waste bags.

All these from cornstarch, really!

Nelson said, "Biofag it a Norwegian company that used to manufacture plastic bags. In collaboration with Indian based Sevamrit, they developed organic compostable based resin, called Wave B. "This cornstarch resin use the plants practically attaching inside from plastic."

Wave B products are "biodegradable and non-petroleum by nature. It is the first family of biopolymers that use substances obtained from vegetables, like maize starch."

What about those garbage and shopping bookags that are once and unusable in the trash? Worse, it has a smelly like feel.

Like a happy mad scientist, Nelson boasts, "It composts within 30-60 days in a controlled composting facility and within 21-28 days in vermicast. (sic) And the food waste bags/ liners become part of the waste and simply put, the animals can ingest the bag together with the food waste it contains and excrete them as humus!"

Cost

"The costing of eco products is analyzed using yardsticks to garner analysis. People need to

TABLEWARE made from potatoes

CONVENIENCE trash bin and waste bags

have a renewed mindset when looking at these."

Ah, mahal? I told myself. But then again, when we all do think about the "environment Track," is there a price tag big enough to help save the planet?

Classes

My new class schedules are out. I will also be doing my Back to School Cooking Series Starting Thursday, Hola Lorin. Call 9205256, 4006606, 9979006 or 0908 2272346.

E-mail the author at reggie@pinpoint.com.ph

Lasagna with prosciutto and mushroom ravioli

ACQUA AT SEMIRAMIS LA Mariza Resort and Spa, Cebu, offers authentic Italian cuisine prepared by Italian executive chef Gianluca Vacchi.

Chef Vacchi's penchant for cooking was honed in his hometown of Merate, Lecco, famous for traditional North Italian cuisine. He now has 14 years of professional cooking experience.

Fresh out of high school, he joined the Gastronomy in Milan and trained in the kitchen until he was given his first post as Chef de Partie in 1996. In 2002, he joined the world renowned Ristorante Stecali in Florence, Italy, as sous chef. He then became the chef de cuisine of Restaurant Il Pavero Pesce, Restaurant La Loggia del Grano and Restaurant Il Gallopolo.

In 2005, he joined Tantoyou Italian Restaurant in Jakarta before finally settling down in Cebu where he has a young family...wife Iri Sanni and child Andrea.

Chef Gianluca joined Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa's expert team of chefs in 2008.

Apart from its contemporary executive dome by the design duo of Ivy and Cynthia Almario, Acqua has other attractions...its wood-fired oven and outdoor dining area where guests can dine while enjoying the sea breeze.

Chef Gianluca shares some Italian specialties.

LASAGNETTE Verdi con Provola, Asparagi e Prosciutto Cotto Affumicato

RISOTTO Asparagi, Zafferano E Provola

CHEF Gianluca Vacchi

Lasagnette Verdi con Provola, Asparagi e Prosciutto Cotto Affumicato

1 portion Spinach Pasta dough

100 g Provolone cheese

150 g Asparagus

40 g mozzarella

80 g smoked cooked ham

75 g parmesan cheese

1 g salt

0.5 g black pepper

200 g béchamel sauce

40 g butter

80 g tomato sauce

4 g garlic

Blanch spinach pasta for 2-3 minutes. Put in ice water to cool down and cut into squares. Make five squares.

Saute onion, garlic, asparagus and smoked ham with butter. Add salt and pepper to taste. Mix in the béchamel.

Layer the spinach pasta, sauce and provolone up to five layers.

Add tomato sauce and parmesan cheese on top of the lasagna. Bake in the oven for 8 minutes at 180°C.

Serve in a warm plate with the temperature of 75°C.

Ravioli al Funghi Porcini in Salsa di Gorgonzola e Pisco

100 g Yellow Pasta dough

50 g dry Porcini mushrooms

100 g fresh brown mushrooms

50 g boiled potato

15 g egg yolks

75 g parmesan cheese

1 g salt

0.5 g black pepper

120 ml whipped cream

50 g gorgonzola cheese

50 g walnuts

15 ml truffle oil

4 g garlic

75 ml extra virgin olive oil

Sauté dried porcini and fresh mushrooms with whole garlic and olive oil. Add mashed potato and cook under medium fire until dried. Cool the mushrooms with ice bath within 90 minutes. Mix in eggyolk and a bit of parmesan.

Flatten the yellow pasta dough with pasta machine, form round shape and fill with the sauteed mushrooms.

Blanch the pasta in boiling water for 5 minutes.

Boil cream, gorgonzola and walnuts and reduce until sticky consistency is achieved. Put salt and pepper to taste and toss in the ravioli and arrange on a warm plate. Add truffle oil for aroma.

Serve the ravioli warm.

Call (032) 231 0288 or e-mail marik@shangri-la.com.

Fab treats await winners in hotel's anniversary promo

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 14TH anniversary, Discovery Suites, hotel and serviced residences in Ortigas Center, will include an array of culinary treats in its prizes during its year long Bonfun 14 promotion.

Perfect 10 is a raffle promo open to hotel residents who book suites, or dine in any of the hotel's restaurants earlier until Feb. 13, 2011. Guests who book with the qualifying room rate, or diners who meet the minimum food bill, are given raffle coupons that entitle them to various prizes in monthly draws.

The winner of the raffle scheduled on Oct. 11 will be treated to steak dinner for 10 persons at Discovery Suites' 2/F Prime. Voted "best steakhouse" in an online poll maintained by SpeakOn, 2/F Prime will provide VIP treatment to the winner and his guests.

On Nov. 11, Discovery Suites will award a lucky raffle winner with a lunch or dinner treat for 10 persons at Mobile Café in functional Mall in Quezon City.

PROMO Cebu park spacious

Discovery Suites' Perfect 10 monthly draws are scheduled July 12, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 31, 2011, Feb. 10, 2011 and Feb. 14, 2011.

Other monthly prizes include an All Spa Getaway comprised of an overnight hotel stay spa treatments and dinner at Chelsea Market Café, vacations at Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay and Discovery Shores Boracay, wardrobe by noted fashion designer Pury Quinones, beauty products and services from Clarins and French Parisian, Privilege Card members

stays.

The grand raffle prize on Feb. 14 will be a 10-day shadow cruise for two patrons courtesy of Princess Cruises.

Discovery Suites' Perfect 10 is supported by Princess Cruises, French Provost, Clarins, Discovery Shores Boracay, Discovery Country Suites, Chelsea Market Café, Mama Cafe, Museum Café, Mr. Jones restaurant, Tesoro Wellness Spa, Indulge Lifestyle Fitness Center, Hotel Marketing Concepts, Pury Quiñones, and Cocolife Exchange. Call 7196666.

Pan-seared scallops with champagne sabayon, crème brûlée with pomelo–Davao hotel blends global cuisines with local favorites

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

AT MARCO POLO Hotel Davao, the kitchen takes cooking very seriously. This is why its restaurants are motivated in the South.

Among them is Palo Sierra, where tastes is inherited, hearty, with a bordering number of comfort foods and variety of grilled seafoods, steaks, something sandwiches, pizzas and desserts. The creative of executive chef Ed Tinanon and his staff has made dining a gastronomic adventure.

The new menu reflects the cosmic crunch of the just decades the sophisticated emphasis on understanding, **straightforward' garnishes,** less sauces and lighter ingredients **to highlight the product's quality** and to intensified flavors. It offers a reasonably well-rounded wine list to please the gastronome or foodie. It's a place to have a light meal or a quick bite any time of day.

Part of the dining experience is savoring the view of the Hotel's Poolside and Dining skyline. The minimalistic interiors, large expanse of glass that frames the scenery and soft wood lighting create that cozy ambiance.

International flavor

The experience combines the best of the Italian, classic, Mediterranean, modern cuisine with local ingredients. The appetizer has an international flavor with its authentic and craftsmanship and appearance.

Then there's that item from **experience with** capellini di. Acqua or pan-seared scallops **with** chanterelles and champagne sabayon. This seafood classic is sweet and juicy matched with French's trumpet mushrooms, bathed in sparkling white wine, enveloped with eggs.

A contrast to the refined appetizer is the Davao Smiles, a medange of warm rubes, mushroom soup with brie and pine nut gremolata, a condiment made from orange rind and garlic in the onion soup, baked as it should, and glazed with gruyere cheese. The cheeses melt into the soup, enriching the flavor.

Weight watchers can enjoy the colorful Three Bean Salad with mixed Caper apple shrimp, calamares and peanuts, with a chimichurri, the spicy South American herb sauce dressing, or the flaked Chicken Supreme Salad, in which the meat is marinated in buttermilk, basil and garlic, and mixed with grapes, feta cheese, and roasted almond for crunch.

Among the grilled items, the steaks beef lobsters a made mincing with the chermoula or Moroccan sauce of mashed with coriander, basil and pesto. The baby back pork rib is the most popular on the menu. The meat is of quality to both flavor and texture. It is slow-cooked for three hours until it becomes tender yet firm. The sauce is caramelized to its own juices with a local multitude of catsup, soy sauce and pepper.

Unique touches

There are unique touches to classic dishes.

In the Mediterranean, Pesto Genovese—kalbon, a de leche for us, stuffed with garlic. He made sure we had the calmgia of cicuro to cleanse the palate, and let us savor to munch the Genoa.

Dessert was Sandagan's turf. There was the airy and cold sauvages with caramelized sugar and cream sauce, rich tacitus del cielo that had its unevenness cream, pencil, thank heaven, and a mango walnut tarte.

On the day the festival started, there were so many diners that we thought about going around the buffet area at first, but then we held back by the wall. I'm glad that hunch today realize that Filipinos had dives still. And that there is a way to serve Filipino food that is up to the standards of international cuisine.

Reservation is ongoing until June 24. Call 8224888.

'Balisungsung,' 'adobong' Batangas, 'sinanglay na apahap' in 'gabi' leaves, fish 'kinilaw,' 'pako' salad–Heat fest offerings

COUNTRY COOKING

Mickey Fenix

KUSINAHAN DEPOT ENDS WITH THE printed book. It's a continuing program to promote Filipino cooking, and the latest is a festival at Heat of Edsa Shangri La. Three chefs are featured: Glenda Barretto, Myrna Segismundo and Jill Sandiego.

While I took a buffet, the introduction **in the press had the food** served on a long table. Last one when we walked into the **function room were fish dishes** and salads of pako, chicken inasal with annatto dressing, and adobo with pomelo. Condiments, a requirement for Filipino dining, were **there as well...** sukang paoay, Palo pure and vinegar that can be mixed and matched with the coming dishes.

Soup was a tasting of three intriguing versions. There was cinigang sa miso of bonga; lastly, with unusual flavors giving that touch of bituwas, dinigang na baboy had pork sliced thinly, an alternative way to serve this dish, presented with a pork beef sauced with unnamed made "from scratch," emphasized ingredients.

Next in banana leaves called balisungsung were served awaiting the main courses. Those came one after the other... kelaw mixed, adobong Batangas, sinanglay na apahap wrapped in gabi leaves, and then the pièce de résistance so many special occasions—kalbon, a de leche for us, stuffed with garlic. He made sure we had the calmgia of cicuro to cleanse the palate, and letus savor to munch the Genoa.

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Best food mag

Every time I receive my copy of "Spain Gourmetour" sent by the Embassy of Spain, I can't wait to open the envelope it's kept in. The covers never fail to captivate me. There's always different but always artistic. And then the stories are well-written, and the photographs, more often than not, are breathtaking.

The latest copy included a letter by Jaime Alvarez Gonzalez, commercial and economic counselor, informing me that "Spain Gourmetour" was awarded "Best Food Magazine by the Le Cordon Bleu World Food Media Award in Australia. It just confirmed what I knew all along, that the magazine is one of the best in the world, even if it is a government publication out to promote the assets of food and wine and travel through Spain.

My copies are all in a magazine holder in my cubicle awaiting guests to leaf through its pages and discover, as I did, what Spanish cuisine has to offer. They also wait for me to go through the pages again, read through the ones I set aside for another day, since many times I tend to become fixed there per the magazine's cover because its look-see is sometimes enough for that moment.

Many times when we go through publications that include food, beverages and travel, we look forward to the time when we can actually taste, drink or visit those featured on the pages. And here is my wish list:

- To see the enchanting blue roof of Bodegas Viña mínery in Lapuebla, La Rioja, a good excuse to taste their wines as well.
- To go to the place of origin of De Beer cuisine and to stuff myself silly with slices of it, maybe to lug home a leg or two.
- To stay and dine in at least one of the paradors, a hotel concept that is exclusively Spanish, such as the one in Santiago de Compostela.
- To eat tapas at Barrio del Carmen and at Casa Mesones, both in Valencia.
- To visit Miguel Torres or his Catalan winery, the gracious man who never failed to send a block of turrones made in his place every Christmas, that is, until I moved to another publication.
- To be in Madrid for the winter when the Campo Real olives are prepared to season.
- To taste the Iberian de Pata at Pan de Cuerda pastry shop in Avila.
- To love Spanish salt-soda, beginning with the Balearic Island of Majorca.
- To tried any and all of those impressive chefs featured in the magazine.

"Spain Gourmetour" is now on its 24th year. May we be blessed with more delightful reading in the years to come.

E-mail pinoyfood@inkfree.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie Q. Velarde

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Seemed like Oscar, but it was Tony

By the Entertainment staff

NEW YORK—If you weren't watching the Tonys too carefully, you would have thought they had turned into the Oscars.

The weekend show was a night for screen statistics. Academy Award winners Denzel Washington and Catherine Zeta-Jones took home their first Tonys, and the most honored play "Red," was itself a meditation on art and commerce. Other familiar faces included Will Smith and Michael Douglas, Helen Mirren and Daniel Radcliffe, and "Glee" stars Matthew Morrison and Lea Michele.

The first-ever Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers win that he gave her shoe and she gave him sex. So has been the dance of Broadway and Hollywood. Celebrities from Sean Combs to Julia Roberts have turned to Broadway when in search of serious work, while Broadway has welcomed the famous to ensure financial backing and boost the box office.

Stars not only have appeared onstage over the years, but behind the scenes as well, with nonperformers such as Irene Gilmore ("Nat") and Lloyd ("Mike") producing.

"Red" stars Alan Play and five other honors: Cris Jones, Best Actress in a Musical in the previous actress in the revival of Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music," Katie Finneran, Best Featured Actress in a Musical, "Promises, Promises."

Scarlett Johansson, Best Featured Performance as an Actress, "A View from a Bridge." Tennis," Best Revival—and in two also, Washington and Viola Davis, Best Actress in a Play. AP

Politico's view here

"She alike a Shoreditch's Jacket hat type. Classic Robinson a seniors by Jeremy Hunt, [illegible]

SCARLETT Johansson gets a Tony for debut stage role in 'A View from a Bridge.'"

Cheer Factor

Forget the VJ, welcome the TJ

LOS ANGELES—BOARDERS TO BE MTV VJ? There's no two decades ago. The network is looking to hire its first TJ: Twitter Jockey.

MTV officials say the search is on for a new social media maven to serve as a liaison between viewers and network honchos. The network has identified 10 candidates and is asking audiences to find two more. The 10 hopefuls will compete in a series of online challenges this summer designed to reveal their personalities and how they connect with Twitter followers. Five finalists compete on a live show on Aug. 8, when fans will pick who gets the new job. AP

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4 I'LL BE THERE
5 THE KARATE KID
6 THE A-TEAM

IMUS

1 THE KARATE KID
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE A-TEAM
4 I'LL BE THERE

ANGELES

1 THE KARATE KID
2 TOY STORY 3
3 I'LL BE THERE
4 THE A-TEAM

TAGUIGAN

1 TOY STORY 3
2 THE KARATE KID
3 I'LL BE THERE

DUMAGUETE

1 I'LL BE THERE
2 TOY STORY 3
3 THE KARATE KID

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GENSAN

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4 THE KARATE KID

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE KARATE KID
2 THE A-TEAM
3 I'LL BE THERE

Seemed like Oscar, but it was Tony

From page E1

who probably announces Hong Kong in Arabic as regretful rushes, CF regularly meets up with 101 in a bar near out of town. DP's Cruz has-more established. The rumor, a made told us. Hope CF doesn't lavish 101 with gifts bought with people's money.

Poor boy

Teen Actor is suffering from low self-esteem. Whenever Gay Benefactor is around, Tk gets uptight and temperamental. Perhaps unsure of the pesky rumor linking him to GS. Tk is often debonair and despondent.

Surrounded by peers, and away from GS's prying eyes, Tk loosens up and acts like the kid that he is. Tk, tsk.

Boston Brows Inn

Gay Benefactor sent Young Mind to the second meeting of Gary V GF pulls out all the stops promoting SW. Bill aside, and over scores in concentrated, maternal achievements for SW.

GF built up SW as a "world chef" that he/she was shabbily treated as a mere event, not getting his own cheering team.

Crying inside

Gay designer must be crying inside, she is now the official costumer of Gwenang. Bruang present love-of-his-past famous Gumbo actor.

When Tk was a newcomer, LG groomed him into the star that he eventually became. But now LG is demuing up the women in Tk's life like food

ROBIN wept over absent daughter. INQUIRER

Skeletons

Female Host often shows her weight around, bullying underlings. To retaliate, Hefty victims are blabbing about her inhibitions. On an out-of-town trip, FH purportedly had a fling with a newcomer. Nothing the matter with that, except that FH cuts an ill she's ticker than-thou and morally infallible in public.

Not so anonymous

Friends are worried that Donna Summer is spiraling out of control, with severe setbacks and relationship woes pushing her over the edge.

People close to her blame former two Lover as the bad influence who led DS to substance abuse. But she's breaking up with EL, BA has found scores addictive hard liquor.

DS's Dirty Contemporary on the other hand, dabbles in unconventional gay affairs and online gambling.

Yin an different strokes for different folks.

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfest on TV. (And why we are excited if we are invited.)

• **Angelika dela Cruz** on learning that her brother had perished in a car mishap:

"Nung sa pahinantulan ako, di ko, sabi ng iba, kinakabahan ako, nagpalit ako, wala akong pasan, o makulubliga. Kapatid mas really a shock when my dad talked."

• **Jennylyn Mercado** on continuing her relationship with Bernie Tillo after their afternoon soap crash up:

"Hindi naman po ito ang sabihin na nagsimpan na ang aking mga na ito ang labas." (Time out go again.)

• **Dennis on his relationship with Jennylyn:**

"Magkaibigan, pero baka mauwi sa nagsasama, mas lalong dumadami yun. Eh, mas maaabot na magkaibigan yun." (Please sing.)

• **Lorna Tolentino**, asked about **Mark Anthony Fernandez** not attending yet attending Inday's death anniversary rites:

"Ang sabi kasi niya, para sa kanya, kumbaga, ang pupuntahan niya mas lalo ng lugar. Na-

remember ko, ang-

ing."

• **Carlos**, asked if she would still entertain talents:

"Pahapot ka sa sinu-

mayo ba. Oh pa ka. Happy bang magkaroon ako, naisip siya ako bang mag-pasan ito ang, hello! Oho, di ba-

• **Judy Ann Santos** on daughter **Quezzie** correcting show biz:

"Hanunahan [ako] ... pagsabi yan, dalang-lala na ako ... alam-lo yun." (After the

• **Nino Muhlach**, asked about reports that **Sam Milby** was dating **Marie Digby**:

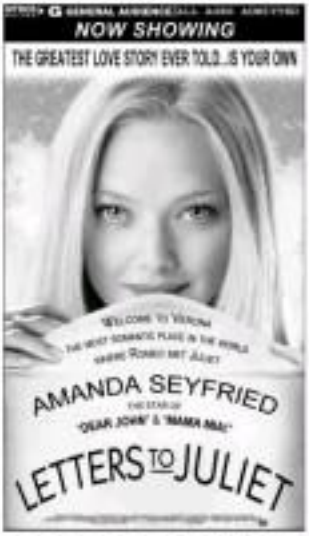
"I'm really and sincerely happy for him kasi ano eh, after the interview-maging maiba na sa isa't isa na lang and I am fine." (stop talking about it section.)

Elsewhere, the host, Shandee General, Fu- get tired.

LG Can love really wait?

ANNE puts "Sam Lamor" to rest.

JENNYLYN: Hers-ro go again.



POWER PLANT CINEMA

I'LL BE THERE 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20	THE GHOST WRITER 1:20, 4:25, 7:35, 10:20	THE A-TEAM PG13 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
TOY STORY 3 (3D DIGITAL) G 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	LETTERS TO JULIET PG 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:15, 10:30	TOY STORY 3 (2D DIGITAL) G 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. TOY STORY 3 (3D) G 11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
2. TOY STORY 3 G 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
3. KARATE KID 11:40, 2:00, 5:20, 8:40
4. LETTERS TO JULIET 3:20, 8:00
5. THE A-TEAM PG 13 7:00, 9:40

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ENTERTAINMENT

Recalling my own first day of school

BACKSTORY

Eva Salonga

MANILA—OUR FORTNIGHT IN SYDNEY was so enjoyable once. It was great that I was able to bring my little girl with me on my first visit to Australia. Last week, I wrote about my first week of rehearsal. The second week went more or less the same way, save for a few dinners with friends and new acquaintances, a round of publicity with members of the Philippine press and seeing "Love" one last time before finally going home.

Now we're home, and another milestone in our family life is about to take place: Hiyoki is heading to big school!

Big school ... I barely remember when it was my turn to go, although my mother could forget that moment of initial separation. According to her, as I was walking toward the school building, Leo del Rosario City hunter (moved into classroom and regaled myself), I turned around her and said, "I'll be okay, mom, you can go home now." She made sure I had memorized my phone number (all four digits!), and stayed near the premises to make sure I was okay. I didn't see her or her car for the rest of the day, she says she was nearby.

Flashes of preschool

It's now Monday night, and flashes of preschool are going through my mind. Memories that I was free to explore and manipulate to my heart's content, learning practical life skills like washing a basket and shining my shoes, learning the seven continents using a puzzle map, the parts of a flower, various polygons, the differences between an island and an isthmus, and how to read. I had many treasures of show joy as well as the dream acquired skills and lessons.

Now, it's my daughter's turn. And we are extremely excited for her. We have all her requirements laid out—school bag, little fork and spoon, a lunch and a little towel, plus a change of clothes, everything labeled with her name written in black indelible ink. I'm hoping that she makes some new friends, just intimidated by the materials and that she

> I turned to my mom and said, 'I'll be okay'

comes home with a smile on her face from having a great time. Also, I sincerely hope ...

Ha, I am indeed a little anxious, but I'm also very excited!

***

It's now Tuesday morning. Bob and I have dropped Sky off at school (she was giving small attention to a pair of fatty oblong and birds, and Bob was taking a phone video of "the drop-off" on this big day) and headed back home for breakfast. It is so quiet at home without Sky here. We have a leisurely repast, talk to me reading the paper and Bob checking out the Internet. At about 9:30, I decide to do a walk-run on the treadmill. Then we headed back to the school to close to 10:00 (with Bob video-shooting "the pickup").

Hiyoki's teacher gives us some really good feedback, which only encourages us for the rest of her time there. The teacher says Hiyoki got on fine first day.

One one is done ... only the beginning of at least 13 years of school.

Pilot: no shareholders plug

World-renowned pianist Cecile Licad, hailed as a "pianist's pianist" by The New Yorker, is flying in for a concert with Gerard Salonga and Philharmonia.

The maestro, titled "Cecile Licad with Philharmonia," will be the pianist's debut performance with Philharmonia and Salonga.

It will feature two pieces by Spanish composer Manuel de Falla: "El Sombrero de Tres Picos" (The Three Cornered Hat) and "Noches en los Jardines de España" (Nights in the Gardens of Spain); and Jean Sibelius' "Finlandia" and Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns' "Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22."

It will be held July 2 and 3, 8 p.m. at the PhilAmLife Auditorium, UN Avenue, Manila.

CARMEN PINE SAMSON as MOTHER

***

To all dads out there, have a fantastic fathers' Day! I know where I'll be on Sunday—watching the US Open golf championship on TV or cruising the Internet for golf related news.

Driving Mr. Olyphant . . . crazy

'Deadwood,' 'Catch & Release,' 'Justified'... what's next? 'Gardening at home'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SOMETHING LOST IN TRANSMISSION?

An overseas phone interview between Asian journalists and a Hollywood star who's current and time-zones away can be tricky—especially if, like this one, actor Timothy Olyphant, the subject is driving during the entire process.

Luckily, he gets stuck in traffic somewhere in Los Angeles, California, at dusk (the morning after in Manila). "Should anything happen, I just hope you appreciate all my sacrifices for the show," he quipped.

Answering questions thrown his way from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, the lead star of AMC's new cult Western series, "Justified" (which debuts tonight and airs Thursdays) was alternately curt and circuitous.

Whenever talk turned to the private realm, he turned on the charm machine with cryptic quips.

What's an ordinary day like for you? "Uneventful. I'm like everyone else ... tasks break-fast in the morning ... take the kids to school."

What do you have in common with his "Justified" character Raylan Givens, a gruff and tough US marshal? "I look at a lot like him. I also love counting hats."

Drayton is a creation of US novelist Elmore Leonard, famous for quirky big, screen genius "Get Shorty," "Jackie Brown" and "Out of Sight."

What makes your character so angry? "I've played cell right now! I find him so easy-going and charming, that the anger comes across as surprising ... and appealing."

Why do you like playing cops? "At home, I'm the law. When my kids make trouble, I lock them up."

What five words best describe Holly-wood? "I have no f***** clue!"

What's your next big project? "Gardening at home. The weeds are out of control."

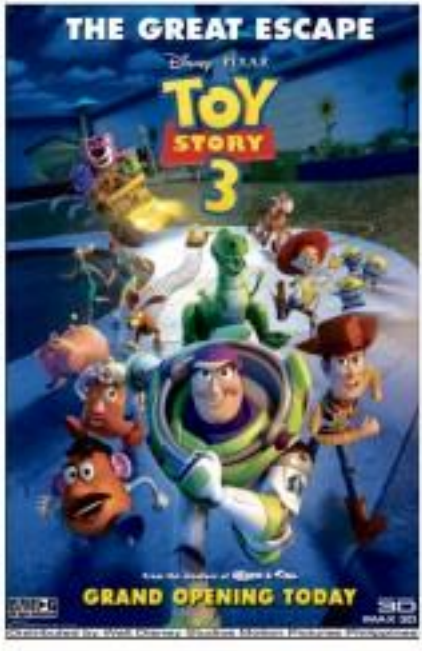
How do you feel about being regarded as sexy? "It's better than being boring and unattractive."

One intrepid reporter dared ask him the star has eschewed rumors about his love life. No affair rumors with co-stars? Replied the query, "Let's focus on the show." Reluctantly, just like Raylan Givens, Olyphant has charisma to spare—the perennially unbruised actress who quickly swept under the rug. Very well...)

What was it like working with US actor-dude in Southern California? "Enlightening and helpful, in the end. I knew nothing about them. I'm not joking on the shows; a lot of people don't even know they still exist. Some of them signed up for the job because they'd get paid well to find a gun and a badge."

Did you read up to prepare for the show? "The show is a lovely excuse to read Elmore Leonard's books. I'm a big fan. I also talked a lot with the show's writers, a talented entire bunch of brilliant men."

What's your take on Leonard's books? "They're so cool. They catch me up. The characters are well-drawn and vivid. His books are, by turns, unpredictable, funny, dramatic, smart and insightful. Mind, he wrote it with a certain time in mind, at the same time, he's very adroit [to choose] the period with it."

What do you find fascinating about dark and conflicted characters on either side of the law—time-honors ("Witness," "Scream 2") and short-lift ("Deadwood")? "I don't care whether it's light or dark ... I am fascinated by surprising and complex characters. It makes my job more fun and fulfilling.

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